RG104 Entry 216
Volume 8 (no index)

January 8, 1849 – June 30, 1852

Letters sent and received by the Secretary of the Treasury relating to Branch Mints.

Documents are in rough chronological order as they appear in the volume, but are not separated by Branch Mint facility or subject. Page/document numbers are inconsistent and often duplicative.

Blank sheets and routine endorsements have been omitted. Annotations and addenda sheets have been digitized as they appear in the originals.

Some documents might duplicate those in RG104 Entry 1 but no specific identification has been attempted.

RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF
THE MINT

Records of the Office of the
Secretary of the Treasury

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM BRANCH
MINTS ("V" SERIES), 1834-1873

Vol. 08 of 29

NC-152, Entry 216

RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF
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LETTERS RECEIVED FROM BRANCH
MINTS ("V" SERIES), 1834-1873

Vol. 08 of 29
NC-152, Entry 216

Mint of the United States,
Philada. January 8th 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, an account of the Profits on the Recoinage of Foreign Coins, and the expenses of transportation of Foreign and U. S. Coins pursuant to your direction of September 22d. 1847.

Will you be so good as to issue your Warrant in my favor for $ 153.80, the balance due to the Ordinary fund of the Mint, from the United States.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your Obt. Servt.

James Ross Snowden
Treas.

To/
Hon. Robert J. Walker,
Secretary of the Treasury of the U.S.
Washington

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Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Jan. 13, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, in which you ask me "to communicate to the department, on Monday morning next, if practicable, certain information desired for the use of the Judges of the Supreme Court, or such portion of it as I may be enabled to furnish from the records of the Mint."

The information asked is "The whole cost, including repairs, of the Mint Buildings and lots, and of the machinery, from the commencement of the establishment; and a description of the present building, with a statement of the cost of it, including the lot."

I regret that it is not in my power to give a satisfactory reply to these questions. No separate account has been kept at the Mint for the cost of machinery and repairs. These expenses could be ascertained only by an examination, in detail, of the bills rendered, and as they spread over a period of 56 years, the labour would not only be very long, but also of doubtful accuracy, as it might be impossible to fix the place of many of the items. Another difficulty arises from the circumstance that a great part of the machinery is made and repaired by the workmen of the Mint, and as they are employed also in other duties, it is not pos-

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sible to determine what portion of their wages shou be changed to the respective objects of their work. I despair, then, of being able to give the information desi

When the act establishing a mint was passed in 1792, a lot, for the purpose, was purchased in 7th street, between Market & Arch. It was 37 feet in front and 99 in depth, and had, on the north sid a three story brick building. A corresponding buildin was erected to the south, and back buildings were add Subsequently a lot was purchased at the rear of th first, 28½ feet wide by 88 deep. Nothing could be more unpretending than the edifices of the old Min They were sold in October, 1835, with the lots on whi they stood, for $10,100

The lot on which the present mint is erected wa purchased in May 1829. It reaches from Chesnut Street to Penn Square, and is 150 feet in front, by 204 in depth. The building erected upon it is 135 feet wide by 198 deep, with a court in the middle of 55 feet by 85, surrounded by terraces reaching from the principal and second stories. The whole exterior of the building is of marble, and there are Ionic porticoes, in the front and rear, of sixty feet in width. The building has two stories and a bas ment, and the roof is covered with copper. The offi in the front of the building are fire-proof, the machi and apparatus of every kind are of the best construction.

The cost of the ground, enclosure, paving &c was	$35,840
The cost of the building, machinery, & fixtures	173,390
The cost of expenditures made under special ppropriations, for the years 1836 & 1837, for coining y steam power and other extensive improvements,	28,270
	$237,500

Other additions and improvements have been made, and are still making, in the operative departments of the mint, but they are principally executed by the workmen in the Institution.

very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Robert J. Walker,
Secretary of the Treasury

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Jan. 16, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a copy of a report, which I have this day sent to the President, of the operations of the Mint and Branch Mints in the year 1848.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. R. J. Walker,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, Jan. 16, 1849

Sir,

I have the honor of presenting the following report of the operations of the Mint and its Branches, during the past year.

The coinage of the principal mint, in 1848, amounted to $3,265,138; comprising $2,780,930 in gold, $420,050 in silver, and $64,158 in copper coins, and composed of 8,691,444 pieces. The deposites for coinage amounted to $2,584,460 in gold, and $466,732 in silver.

At the New Orleans Branch Mint, the coinage amounted to $1,978,500; comprising $358,500 in gold, and $1,620,000 in silver coins, and composed of 3,815,850 pieces. The deposites for coinage amounted to $183,360 in gold, and $1,659,774 in silver.

The Branch Mint at Charlotte received during the year, deposites of gold, to the value of $370,799, and its coinage amounted to $364,330, composed of 64,472 halfeagles, and 16,788 quarter eagles

The Branch Mint at Dahlonega received, during the year, deposites of gold to the value of $274,473, and its coinage amounted to $271,752½, composed of 47,465 half eagles, and 13,771 quarter eagles.

The deposites at the four Mints, during the year, amounted, in all, to $5,539,598; of which $3,413,092 was in gold, and $2,126,506 in silver. The whole coinage amounted to $5,879,720½, composed of $3,775,512½ in gold, ~~and~~ $2,040,050 in silver, and $64,158 in copper coins.

Other statements relative to the operations of the year, and of former years, are presented in the subjoined tables. In that which gives the amounts of deposites of gold, from mines in the United Stat two new columns are opened, with deposites received from New Mex co and California, since their annexation. The deposites received are as yet small, but there is every reason to believe that the gold to be obtained, from these sources, will be of great amount.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director U. S. Mint

To/
The President of the United States.

B. Statement of the annual amounts of Deposites of Gold for Coinage at the mint of the United States and its Branches from Mines in the United States.

Periods.	Deposited at the United States mint.										Deposited at the branch mints.				Mint and branches.
	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	New Mexico	California	Various sources.	Total at the United States mint.	Branch mint at Charlotte, North Carolina.	Branch mint at Dahlonega, Georgia.	Branch mint at New Orleans.	Total at the branch mints.	Total deposites of United States gold.
1824	....	$5,000	....	....	....	....			....	$5,000	....	....	....	....	$5,000
1825	....	17,000	....	....	....	....			....	17,000	....	....	....	....	17,000
1826	....	20,000	....	....	....	....			....	20,000	....	....	....	....	20,000
1827	....	21,000	....	....	....	....			....	21,000	....	....	....	....	21,000
1828	....	46,000	....	....	....	....			....	46,000	....	....	....	....	46,000
1829	$2,500	134,000	$3,500	....	....	....			....	140,000	....	....	....	....	140,000
1830	24,000	204,000	26,000	$212,000	....	....			....	466,000	....	....	....	....	466,000
1831	26,000	294,000	22,000	176,000	$1,000	....			$1,000	520,000	....	....	....	....	520,000
1832	34,000	458,000	45,000	140,000	1,000	....			....	678,000	....	....	....	....	678,000
1833	104,000	475,000	66,000	216,000	7,000	....			....	868,000	....	....	....	....	868,000
1834	62,000	380,000	38,000	415,000	3,000	....			....	898,000	....	....	....	....	898,000
1835	60,400	263,500	42,400	319,900	100	....			12,200	698,500	....	....	....	....	698,500
1836	62,000	148,100	55,200	201,400	300	....			....	467,000	....	....	....	....	467,000
1837	52,100	116,900	29,400	83,600	....	....			....	282,000	....	....	....	....	282,000
1838	55,000	66,000	13,000	36,000	1,500	....			200	171,700	$127,000	$135,700	$700	$263,400	435,100
1839	57,600	53,500	6,300	20,300	300	$500			....	138,500	126,836	113,035	6,869	246,740	385,240
1840	38,995	36,804	5,319	91,113	104	4,431			....	176,766	124,726	121,858	2,835	249,419	426,185
1841	25,736	76,431	3,440	139,796	1,212	1,863			....	248,478	129,847	161,974	1,818	293,639	542,117
1842	42,163	61,629	223	150,276	....	5,579			13,717	273,587	174,508	323,372	5,630	503,510	777,097
1843	48,148	62,873	5,099	56,619	2,788	4,786			415	180,728	272,064	570,080	22,573	864,717	1,045,445
1844	40,595	194,917	11,856	30,739	2,240	12,298			2,377	295,022	167,348	479,794	25,036	672,178	967,200
1845	86,783	365,886	5,386	17,325	3,202	6,472			4,328	489,382	....	498,632	20,313	518,945	1,008,327
1846	55,538	286,105	100,641	13,601	2,642	7,542			....	466,069	196,381	455,149	21,758	673,288	1,139,357
1847	67,736	99,491	1,102	10,547	2,511	2,022	—	—	—	183,409	344,054	352,366	9,256	705,676	889,085
1848	57,886	109,034	19,228	3,370	3,497	3,670	682	44,177	—	241,544	370,799	274,473	12,589	657,861	899,405
	1,003,180	3,995,170	499,094	2,333,616	32,396	49,163	682	44,177	34,237	7,991,685	2,033,563	3,486,433	129,377	5,649,373	13,641,058

C.

Coinage of the mint of the United States in the several years from its establishment in 1792, and including the coinage of the branch mints from the commencement of their operations, in 1838.

Years.	GOLD.	SILVER.	COPPER.	WHOLE COINAGE.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	No. of pieces.	Value.
1793 1794 1795	$71, 485 00	$370, 683 80	$11, 373 00	1, 834, 420	$453, 541 80
1796	102, 727 50	79, 077 50	10, 324 40	1, 219, 370	192, 129 40
1797	103, 422 50	12, 591 45	9, 510 34	1, 095, 165	125, 524 29
1798	205, 610 00	330, 291 00	9, 797 00	1, 368, 241	545, 698 00
1799	213, 285 00	423, 515 00	9, 106 68	1, 365, 681	645, 906 68
1800	317, 760 00	224, 296 00	29, 279 40	3, 337, 972	571, 335 40
1801	422, 570 00	74, 758 00	13, 628 37	1, 571, 390	510, 956 37
1802	423, 310 00	58, 343 00	34, 422 83	3, 615, 869	516, 075 83
1803	258, 377 50	87, 118 00	25, 203 03	2, 780, 830	370, 698 53
1804	258, 642 50	100, 340 50	12, 844 94	2, 046, 839	371, 827 94
1805	170, 367 50	149, 388 50	13, 483 48	2, 260, 361	333, 239 48
1806	324, 505 00	471, 319 00	5, 260 00	1, 815, 409	801, 084 00
1807	437, 495 00	597, 448 75	9, 652 21	2, 731, 345	1, 044, 595 96
1808	284, 665 00	684, 300 00	13, 090 00	2, 935, 888	982, 055 00
1809	169, 375 00	707, 376 00	8, 001 53	2, 861, 834	884, 752 53
1810	501, 435 00	638, 773 50	15, 660 00	3, 056, 418	1, 155, 868 50
1811	497, 905 00	608, 340 00	2, 495 95	1, 649, 570	1, 108, 740 95
1812	290, 435 00	814, 029 50	10, 755 00	2, 761, 646	1, 115, 219 50
1813	477, 140 00	620, 951 50	4, 180 00	1, 755, 331	1, 102, 271 50
1814	77, 270 00	561, 687 50	3, 578 30	1, 833, 859	642, 535 80
1815	3, 175 00	17, 308 00	-	69, 867	20, 483 00
1816	-	28, 575 75	28, 209 82	2, 888, 135	56, 785 57
1817	-	607, 783 50	39, 484 00	5, 163, 967	647, 267 50
1818	242, 940 00	1, 070, 454 50	31, 670 00	5, 537, 084	1, 345, 064 50
1819	258, 615 00	1, 140, 000 00	26, 710 00	5, 074, 723	1, 425, 325 00
1820	1, 319, 030 00	501, 680 70	44, 075 50	6, 492, 509	1, 864, 786 20
1821	189, 325 00	825, 762 45	3, 890 00	3, 139, 249	1, 018, 977 45
1822	88, 980 00	805, 806 50	20, 723 39	3, 813, 788	915, 509 89
1823	72, 425 00	895, 550 00	-	2, 166, 485	967, 975 00
1824	93, 200 00	1, 752, 477 00	12, 620 00	4, 786, 894	1, 858, 297 00
1825	156, 385 00	1, 564, 583 00	14, 926 00	5, 178, 760	1, 735, 894 00
1826	92, 245 00	2, 002, 090 00	16, 344 25	5, 774, 434	2, 110, 679 25
1827	131, 565 00	2, 869, 200 00	23, 577 32	9, 097, 845	3, 024, 342 32
1828	140, 145 00	1, 575, 600 00	25, 636 24	6, 196, 853	1, 741, 381 24
1829	295, 717 50	1, 994, 578 00	16, 580 00	7, 674, 501	2, 306, 875 50
1830	643, 105 00	2, 495, 400 00	17, 115 00	8, 357, 191	3, 155, 620 00
1831	714, 270 00	3, 175, 600 00	33, 603 60	11, 792, 284	3, 923, 473 60
1832	798, 435 00	2, 579, 000 00	23, 620 00	9, 128, 387	3, 401, 055 00
1833	978, 550 00	2, 759, 000 00	28, 160 00	10, 307, 790	3, 765, 710 00
1834	3, 954, 270 00	3, 415, 002 00	19, 151 00	11, 637, 643	7, 388, 423 00
1835	2, 186, 175 00	3, 443, 003 00	39, 489 00	15, 996, 342	5, 668, 667 00
1836	4, 135, 700 00	3, 606, 100 00	23, 100 00	13, 719, 333	7, 764, 900 00
1837	1, 148, 305 00	2, 096, 010 00	55, 583 00	13, 010, 721	3, 299, 898 00
1838	1, 809, 595 00	2, 333, 243 00	63, 702 00	15, 780, 311	4, 206, 540 00
1839	1, 355, 885 00	2, 189, 296 00	31, 286 61	11, 811, 594	3, 576, 467 61
1840	1, 675, 302 50	1, 726, 703 00	24, 627 00	10, 558, 240	3, 426, 632 50
1841	1, 091, 597 50	1, 132, 750 00	15, 973 67	8, 811, 968	2, 240, 321 17
1842	1, 834, 170 50	2, 332, 750 00	23, 833 90	11, 743, 153	4, 190, 754 40
1843	8, 108, 797 50	3, 834, 750 00	24, 283 20	14, 640, 582	11, 967, 830 70
1844	5, 428, 230 00	2, 235, 550 00	23, 987 52	9, 051, 834	7, 687, 767 52
1845	3, 756, 447 50	1, 873, 200 00	38, 948 04	11, 806, 196	5, 668, 595 54
1846	4, 034, 177 50	2, 558, 580 00	41, 208 00	10, 133, 515	6, 633, 965 50
1847	20,221,385	2,374,450	61,836 69	15,392,344	22,657,671 69
1848	3,775,512 50	2,040,050	64,157 99	12,649,790	5,879,720 49
	76,341,440	73,466,514.90	1,209,759.20	343,281,750	151,017,714 10

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Mint of the United States
Jan. 27, 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the evidences of appointment of the Commissioners designated by the President to attend the annual assay at the Mint. But I have to regret that a mistake has occurred in one of the names, which is written Vandervelt instead of Vanderkemp. I accordingly return the two papers which require correction on this account, and have taken the liberty of sending correct substitutes which require only your signature

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. R. J. Walker,
Sec. of Treasury

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United States Mint
Febry. 3rd. 1849.

My dear Sir.

It is considered very desireable and important, that an accurate balance, for weighing gold and silver in the Melter and Refiner's office, be furnished to that officer as promptly as possible.

Although such an instrument may be made in the machine shop of the Mint, it could only be done with considerable delay, because the greater portion of the time of the Machinists must of necessity be given to matters more immediately connected with the coinage &c.

If upon conference with the superintendent of Weights, measures, balances, &c you find it practicable that such a balance can be promptly and conveniently executed in his office, at this time, I respectfully request that you will authorize its construction there. The contingent fund of the Mint will

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From

R. M. Patterson,
Director U.S. Mint.
Philadelphia,
Feb. 3, 1849.

—

Regarding a Balance for the department of the Melter & Refiner at the Mint.

Send copy to
Engineer of
Supt of Coast
Survey

M. 40 Feby 5/49
McKean

U.S. Branch Mint New Orleans
Treasurer's Office, 24th January 1849

Sir,

12a

I beg to refer you to my communication, dated 16 Inst., and to inform you that, in the meantime, I have recd. a Treasury draft for $12.225, which I presume is intended to meet our requisition for that amount, made under date the 5th Inst., and which is therefore credited under the following heads of appropriation, to wit

Salaries Officers & clerks . .	$3.225.
Wages of Workmen . .	3.000
Contingent Expenses . .	6.000
say	$12.225.

Referring therefore to my communication of 16 Inst., you will perceive that we require a further remittance of $9.590.31 to enable us to pay our way for the balance of the present quarter, say from the following heads of Appropriations, to wit, from "Salaries officers &c $3.225.

Wages of Workmen . .	2.365.31
Contingent Expenses including Wastage of 1848	4.000.00
	$9.590.31

It is very important to have this remittance with as little delay as possible, that my "Ordinary Expenses"

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as well as my Bullion accounts" for the present quarter may be properly adjusted. I would therefore ask you to forward a copy of this Communication to Mr Walker at once and to solicit his immediate attention to the subject.

I am Sir
with respect
Yr obdt Svt
John R Macmurdo
Treasurer.

To J. McKennedy
Superintendt &c

defray all expenses which may be incurred.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obdt. Servt.,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To the
Hon. R. J. Walker,
Secty. of the Treasy.

U. S. Branch Mint 12 B

New Orleans January 25. 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to hand you the enclosed communication from Mr. Macmurdo, with the request that you will cause the wish therein express'd by him, in reference to the proper adjustment of his accounts for the present quarter, to be complied with, by an immediate remittance of the amount ask'd for.

Very Respectfully
Yr. ob. Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Sup.

Hon Robt. J. Walker
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D.C.

Cil 3rd

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U. S. Mint,
Philada February 9th 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst, instructing me to transfer from the Contingent fund to the bullion fund of the Mint $\$50\frac{39}{100}$, being the amount of deficit in the payment of a Treasury transfer draft, in foreign gold coins. In conformity with these instructions, I have made the requisite transfer, crediting myself on the ordinary books for $\$50\frac{39}{100}$, and debiting myself for the amount of the Treasury draft, in Bullion A/c.

I beg leave to call your attention to my letter of the 8th ulto, to the department, enclosing an account for the cost of transportation of foreign coins to the Mint and the profits on recoinage, shewing a balance due me from the U.S. of $153.80

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
James Ross Snowden
Treas. U.S. M.

To/ Hon. Robert J. Walker,
Sec. of Treasury.

James Ross Snowden
Treas:
U. S. Mint, Feby. 9. 1849.

McK

Chge to Conts

Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of 6th inst, with instructions relative to the deficit of \$50$\frac{39}{100}$ in the payment of a Treasury transfer draft, in foreign gold coins: and calling attention to my letter of the 8th ulto, respecting the balance due to the ordinary fund of the Mint from the U. States.

Ansd

M 49 Feby 12/49
McKean

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U.S. Mint, Feb. 13, 1849

Ack

Chge to Comts —

Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of 6th inst, with instructions

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Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Feb. 13, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a copy of the Minutes of the Commissioners who were engaged yesterday at the Annual Assay at the Mint. You will see that all the members were present, — that the investigation was conducted with great care, — and that the results were satisfactory.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. R. J. Walker,
Secretary of the Treasury.

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(Copy.)

{1849}

Mint of the United States

Monday, Feb. 12, 1849

The Commission appointed for the purpose of making the annual tri l of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches, uring the year 1848, met at the Mint, on Monday Feb. 12, 1849. The hair was taken by the Hon. Judge Kane, and Robert Patterson, Director's lerk, was selected as Secretary.

The 32d section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, declaring the manner in which he Commission shall be constituted, was then read; and also a letter from the Hon. R. J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 26th ult., announcing he designation, by the President, of Prof. John Johnston, of Middletown, onn., John L. Aspinwall, Esq. of New York, and Prof. John C. Cresson and . J. Vanderkemp, Esq. of Philadelphia, as special commissioners nder the above section.

A majority of the whole number of Commissioners legally constituted were present; namely, Hon. John K. Kane, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Thomas M. Pettit, Esq. Attorney of the United States for the same district; and James Page, Esq., Collector of the Port of Philadelphia; they being the Commissioners ex officio; and Professors Johnston and Cresson, J. L. Aspinwall and J. J. Vanderkemp, Esq's, above named, they being the Commissioners specially designated. The officers of the Mint were also present.

The laws bearing upon the duties of the Commissioners were then read; namely, Sections 8, 9, 10, 22, 25 & 27 of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, supplementary to the act entitled "an Act establishing a Mint, and regulating the coins of the nited States"; the act of May 19, 1828; and Sect. 4 of the Act of March 3, 1835. The minutes of the last annual assay were also read; and it was agreed that the resolutions then adopted, regulating the order of business, should govern the proceedings of the present commission, those resolutions being as follows:

I. Resolved, that the Commissioners will proceed

1. To count the pieces which have been reserved at the Mint and its Branches, for the purposes of the annual trial, under the provis-

-sions of §27 of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, and §4 of the act of 3 March 1835, and to compare the same with the registry made thereof at the time of their deposite under that section.

2. To ascertain the weight thereof
    1. By weighing at several processes the gold and the silver coins from each Mint, and comparing the results with the legal weights according to the acts prescribing the same
    2. By weighing specimens taken indiscriminately from the gold and the silver coinage of each Mint, and comparing the results with the legal weights
3. To ascertain the fineness thereof
    1. By assays of the aggregate, as near as may be practicable, of the gold and of the silver coinage from each mint, and comparing the results with the legal standards
    2. By assays of specimens taken indiscriminately, from the gold and silver coinage of each Mint, and comparing the results with the legal standards
4. To cause the accuracy of the weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of the mint, to be tested according to the standards provided by Sects. 2 & 3 of the act of May 19, 1828

II. Resolved, That the several duties above set forth be referred to the special charge and supervision of three committees, each consisting of at least two members, and that such committees have the power to associate to them such other members of the commission as they may judge proper.

It was then resolved that the Committees above provided for be selected by the chair; whereupon Col. Page, Mr. Vanderkemp, Mr. Pettit and Mr. Aspinwall were appointed a Committee on the counting; Prof. Cresson, Prof. Johnston and Mr. Vanderkemp on the weighing; Prof. Johnston, Mr. Aspinwall, and Prof. Cresson on the assays.

The several Committees then proceeded to the discharge of the duties devolved upon them, and made their reports as follows.

The Committee on the counting reported that they had opened the several packages of gold and silver coin reserved at the Mint and Branches in the year

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1848, and compared the amounts with the Registers, and found the same to be correct

The Committee on the Weighing reported: that the gold coins of the Philadelphia Mint were of the value of $2,145, and consequently their legal weight should be Oz: 115.294. The actual weight was found to be oz: 115.290, so that they fell short of the legal standard weight by four thousandths of an ounce. There were also selected, indiscriminately, from the same coinage, three eagles, three half eagles, and three quarter eagles, the legal weight of which should have been Oz: 2.822; the actual weight was found to be oz: 2.821 so that they fell short of the legal standard weight one thousandth of an ounce

The silver coins reserved at the Philadelphia Mint were of the value of $46.25 consequently the legal weight was oz: 39.746. The actual weight was found to be oz: 39.751 so that they exceeded the legal standard weight five thousandths of an ounce. One dollar, three half dollars, three quarter dollars, three dimes and three half dimes were also selected, indiscriminately from the same coinage, the legal weight of which should have been Oz: 3.179; the actual weight was found to be the same.

The gold coins of the New Orleans Branch Mint were of the value of $370. Their legal weight was, therefore, oz: 19.887 Their actual weight was Oz: 19.882 so that they fell short of the standard five thousandths of an ounce. There were also selected, indiscriminately from the same coinage, six eagles, of which the legal weight was oz: 3.225 The actual weight was Oz: 3.221 so that they fell short of the standard weight four thousandths of an ounce.

The silver coins of the New Orleans Mint were of the value of $324.50 Their legal weight was, therefore, Oz: 278.867 The actual weight was found to be Oz: 278.862 so that they fell short of the standard five thousandths of an ounce. There were also selected indiscriminately from the same coinage, five half dollars and five half dimes, of which the legal weight was Oz: 2.363, and the actual weight was found to be the same.

The reserved gold coins of the Charlotte Branch Mint were of the value of $460. Their legal weight was therefore Oz: 24.725. Their actual weight was found to be Oz: 24.729; so that they exceeded the standard four thousandths of an ounce. There were also selected, indiscriminately, from the same coinage, four half eagles and four quar-

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ten eagles, the legal weight of which was oz: 1.612 The actual weight was found to be oz: 1.611, so that they fell short of the standard weight one thousandth of an ounce.

The reserved gold coins of the Dahlonega Branch Mint were of the value of $612.50, consequently their legal weight was Oz: 32.922 The actual weight was found to be oz: 32.926, so that they exceeded the standard four thousandths of an ounce. There were also selected, indiscriminately, from the same coinage, six half eagles and six quarter eagles, the legal weight of which was oz: 2.419, and the actual weight was the same.

The Committee on the Weighings also reported, that they had tested the accuracy of the Weights ordinarily employed in the transactions of the Mint, by comparing them with the series of standard weights kept for that purpose, and the correspondence was found to be in every instance, satisfactory.

The Committee on the Assays reported that the gold coins of the Philadelphia Mint were of the fineness of Th 900, so that they were exactly of the standard.

The reserved silver coins of the Philadelphia Mint were of the fineness of Th 900.4 so that they were four tenths of a thousandth above the legal standard

The reserved gold coins of the New Orleans Mint were of the fineness of Th 898.8 so that they were one thousandth and two tenths of a thousandth below the legal standard

The reserved silver coins of the New Orleans Mint were of the fineness of Th 900.4, so that they were four tenths of a thousandth above the legal standard

The reserved gold coins of the Charlotte Branch Mint were of the fineness of Th 899.9 so that they were Th 0.1 below standard

The reserved gold coins of the Dahlonega Mint were of the fineness of Th 899.7 so that they were Th 0.3 below standard

The Commissioners thereupon unanimously resolved, That the examination of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches, in the year 1848, as is in their judgment sufficient; and there appearing no greater deviation fro the standard fineness and weight than is allowed by law, the trial is considered and reported as satisfactory.

J. K. Kane
James Page
P. M. Pettit

John Johnston
Jno L. Aspinwall
John C. Cresson
J. J. Vanderkemp

R. M. Patterson
Direct

A 15.a

United States Branch Mint,
Dahlonega, Ga. March 10. 1849.

Sir,

I request your attention to the following requisition for funds necessary to defray the expenses of this Mint for the quarter which will expire on the 31st Instant:

For salaries of Officers & Clerk	$1,500
" Wages of workmen	900
	2,400

It will not be necessary to draw upon the appropriation for Incidental expenses, there being on hand a sufficient balance.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Anthy H. Cooper.
Supt. & Treasurer

Hon. Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

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Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Feb. 28, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a report of the operations of the Mint and its Branches for the month of January.

This communication has been delayed in the hope of receiving, from the New Orleans Mint, a report of their deposites. ~~which they had not~~ In consequence of the vacancy in the office of Melter & Refiner, there cannot have been any Coinage.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. R. J. Walker,
Secretary of the Treasury.

& Treasurer U. S. Branch Mint
Dahlonega Ga.
March 10. 1849

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From/
R. M. Patterson,
Director U.S. Mint,
Philadelphia,
Feb. 28, 1849.

McK

With the Monthly Report
for January.

File

Ask him to send
as soon as it can
be made up of
— the total coinage
from 1 March 1845
to 1 March 1849 —
also the total yearly
coinage from the
comm^t to the close —
M. 85. March 2/49
McKean

Mint of the United States
19 March 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst, enclosing a certified copy of the act of Congress of the 3d inst, entitled "an act to authorize the coinage of gold dollars and double eagles"

I observe that in the act there is no direct provision respecting the weights of the new coins. In all previous acts regarding the coinage the weights of the coins are expressly stated, and this was also done in the House Bill as originally adopted, authorising the gold dollars and double eagles. The standard fineness of these coins is established by the 8th section of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837; and in order that their weights may bear the same proportion to their nominal values that the weights of the existing gold coins do to theirs, that of the gold dollar must be 25 grains and 8 tenths, and that of the Double-eagle 516 grains. In the first section of the recent act it is declared that the new coins shall be made "conformably in all respects to the standard for gold coins now established by law." It is a question whether the words here quoted will authorise the adoption of the weights above mentioned, and on this question I respectfully ask your decision.

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The Coins at present struck at the Mint are similar solids, the diameters being proportioned to the cube roots of the volumes, or, (when the metal is the same,) to their values. The diameters of the eagle, half-eagle, and quarter-eagle respectively, are 1.05 inches, 0.85, and 0.70. To keep the same proportions the diameter of the double eagle will be 1.32 in., and that of the gold dollar 0.5 in.

The diameter proposed for the gold dollar is less, by one-sixth, than that of the half-dime. This defect of size is certainly objectionable, but it is a necessary consequence of the small volume of the coin, which is nearly one-third less than that of the half-dime. If the diameter be sensibly increased, the planchet will be so thin as not to admit of a sufficient depth of impression for affective coinage.

For the face of the gold-dollar, it is proposed to adop a miniature copy of that on the larger gold coins; and our engraver is now engaged in making a medallion of a head of Liberty, of which I send a sketch enclosed. From this medallion we can make a die, in reduced size, which shall be its facsimile.

For the reverse it is proposed to have a wreath, with the words United States of America in the border, and the value of the coin distinctly marked in the centre.

I shall be happy to receive your views upon the subject of the new coinage, and will gladly take advantage of any suggestions that you may make.

The double-eagle must be postponed until the gold dollar can be coined.

I send enclosed, besides the sketch mentioned, a specimen of a dollar-piece which was hastily prepared many years ago, when this coinage was first proposed; also a series of circles marking the diameters of the gold dollar and half-dime, and of the double-eagle and half-dollar.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director

To/
Hon. W. M. Meredith
Secy of the Treasury

P. S. The Specimen sent of a gold-dollar, is in fact of silver gilt. AW52

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Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, April 5, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith reports of the operations at the Mint and its Branches, for the months of January and February.

A Report for January has been already sent, but it was imperfect in consequence of no statement having been received from the New Orleans Mint. The Report for February has been delayed, by the same omission; The statements for both these months have, however, at length been received. They are limited to the deposites made, a stop having been put to the coinage, in consequence of a vacancy in the office of Melter & Refiner.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, April 5, 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, in which you ask my opinion as to the expediency of certain alterations and improvements proposed, by the Superintendent of the Mint at New Orleans, to be made in the part of the building which he occupies, and its enclosure. In reply, I have to state that I have examined the drafts of that building, so as to form a judgment of the proposed changes, and that I think them desirable and unobjectionable. I would, therefore, recommend that these changes be consented to, provided that they shall not cost, to the Mint, more than the estimate presented, of $100.—

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon: W. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington

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Ansd May 19 1849

17a

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans May 9. 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you, that the Remittance ask'd for by me in my letter of the 14th ulto; to pay the Expenses of this Establishment during the present quarter, has not yet been received — If you will be so kind as to have it sent to us in time to reach here by the end of this Month, you will relieve us from much embarrassment.

Very respectfully
Yr obt Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt.

Hon Wm M. Meredith
Secretary of the
Treasury
Washington

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, May 8th, 1849.

Sir,

We have to-day commenced the coinage of gold-dollars, and I send you the enclosed pieces, with a request that you will also show them to the President.

As the length of time occupied in making the primary dies has been complained of, I feel it but justice to say that the Engraver, (Mr. Longacre,) devoted himself constantly and assiduously to the work, and that his labor was greatly increased by the minuteness of the coin.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

United States Mint. Phil^a May 9. 1849

Dear Sir

I have your favor of the 8th inst, enclosing draft for $10. to pay the account of Mr. T. B. Town for printing.

In compliance with your request I have the pleasure of enclosing to you ten of the Dollar coins, which I hope will come safe to hand.

I have had a perfect rush upon me this morning for these coins. They are much admired and are very pretty.

Yours very Truly

James Ross Snowden

S. M. McKean Esq.
Treas'y Dep.
Washington City

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, May 22, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to present herewith a report of the Operations of the Mint and its Branches for the month of April.

The total value of California gold brought, ~~up~~ as yet, to this Mint, is $348,224. I have made inquiry for the amount brought to the New-Orleans Mint, but have not yet received an answer.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

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Mint of the United States,

Sir, Philadelphia, 22 May, 1849.

The 18th section of the Mint act of Jany 18th 1837 is as follows:

"And be it further enacted, That the only subjects of charge by the Mint to the depositor, shall be the following:— For refining, when the bullion is below standard; for toughening, when ~~the~~ metals are contained in it which render it unfit for coinage; for copper used for alloy, when the bullion is above standard; for silver introduced into the alloy of gold; and for separating the gold and silver, when these metals exist together in the bullion; and that the rate of these charges shall be fixed, from time to time, by the Director, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, so as not to exceed, in their judgment, the actual expense to the Mint of the materials and labor employed in each of the cases aforementioned; and that the amount received from these charges shall be accounted for, and appropriated for defraying the contingent expenses of the Mint."

In compliance with these provisions, I presented, on the 28th of January 1837, to the Secretary of the Treasury, the following tariff of mint charges, which he approved on the 1st of February following.

Mint Charges

(1st. On deposites of Silver)

1st. When the silver requires refining or toughening by being passed through the *test*, there shall be a charge of $\frac{1}{3}$d of a cent per ounce on the metal subjected to this operation.

2nd. When the silver is of a quality fit for coinage, except that it is below standard, the charge for raising it to Standard shall be $\frac{1}{3}$d of a cent per ounce, on so much of the metal as must be refined, in order that, being mixed with the remainder, the whole may be brought to Standard.

3d When the silver is above standard, there shall be a charge of 3 cts per ounce on the copper used for alloy, in order to reduce it to standard.

4th. When the silver contains gold there shall be a charge of 4 cts per ounce, on the deposite, for the separation of the gold.

(2nd. On deposites of gold,)

5th. When the gold requires refining or toughening, the charg for this operation shall be one cent per ounce on the deposite

6th When the gold is above standard, there shall be a charge of 3 cts per ounce on the copper introduced, and of 129 cts per ounce on the silver: but the silver charged for shall in no case exceed one quarter of the whole alloy.

7th. When the gold contains silver there shall be a charg of 12 cents per ounce on the deposite for the separation of he silver.

(3d Limit to the Separating of Gold & Silver.)

8th. Neither gold nor silver shall be separated, for the bene- of the depositor, when the net product of the operation, esti- ated upon the above charges, shall be less than five dollars.

Under these terms our charges have been made up to the present time. But, now, the results of long experience, - economical changes in some of the processes, - and lower prices or materials used, - justify a material change in the system, and such as will be generally advantageous to the depositors of bullion for coinage. At my request this important matter has been thoroughly examined by the Assayers of the Mint, and their investigations have led to the tariff of rates presented herewith, and of which I respectfully ask your approbation.

The proposed change would be particularly advantageous to depositors who present bullion of mixed gold and silver, which must be subjected to the process of parting. All the California Gold yet received by us, and much of the gold and silver of Mexico and South America are of this character; and to compete for them

From

R. M. Patterson,
Director U.S. Mint.
Philadelphia,
May 22, 1849.

Proposing a new tariff of Mint Charges.

The proposed change having been thoroughly examined by the Assayer of the Mint and it being found that it will be generally advantageous to depositors and especially to depositors of mixed gold & silver and that the change is necessary to enable the Mint to compete for the coinage of bullion with the Mints of Europe — it is respectfully submitted to the Secretary for his concurrence

S. D. McK.
May 26/49.

Approved — May 28/49
W. M. Meredith
Sec. Treasury.

No 158 May 23/49

on equal terms with the Mints of Europe, the reduction proposed becomes necessary.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director,

To/
Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

McK

From
R. M. Patterson,
Director U. S. Mint.
Philadelphia,
May 22, 1849.

Proposing a new tariff of Mint Charges.

The proposed change having been thoroughly examined by the Assayers of the Mint and it being found that it will be generally advantageous to depositors and especially to depositors of mixed gold & silver and that the change is necessary to enable the Mint to compete for the coinage of bullion with the Mints of Europe it is respectfully submitted to the Secretary for his concurrence.
S. D. McK.
May 26/49.

Approved — May 28/49
W. M. Meredith
Sec. Treasury.

M 158 May 23/49

McKean

Rate of Charges upon Deposites of Gold and Sil- r Bullion, at the Mint of the United States, adopted nder the provisions of the Act of Congress, of Jan. 18, 837, § 18.

I. "For refining when the bullion is below standard."

1. On gold: Three cents per ounce of gross weight ter melting, on so much of a deposit as will bring the hole up to standard.

2. On silver: From 500 to 700 fine, 3 cents per oz. as above,
" 701 to 800 " 2½ " " " "
" 801 to 899 " 2 " " " "
n so much as will bring the whole up to standard.

II. "For toughening, when metals are contained in it hich render it unfit for coinage."

1. On gold. From one to three and a half cents per unce of gross weight after melting, according to the condition f the metal.

2. On silver. If not coppery, from one third of a cent to one cent per ounce as above.

If coppery: 500 to 700 fine, 3 cents per ounce as above.
701 to 800 " 2½ " " "
801 to 925 " 2 " " "

III. "For copper used for alloy"; two cents per ounce.

IV. "For silver used for alloy"; 129 cents per ounce.

V. "For separating the gold and silver, when these metals exist together in the bullion;

1. If not coppery:

Proportion of gold	1 to 200	thousandths	1½ cents,	per oz. of gross weight after melting
do	201 to 600	"	2 cts	do.
do	601 to 900	"	3 cts	do.
do	901 to 935	"	4 cts	do.

2. If coppery:"

Proportion of silver	500 to 700 fine, the gold in any proportion not less than 1½ thousandths	3 cents	per ounce of gross weight after melting
do	701 to 800 do.	2½ cts	do.
do	801 to 925 do.	2 cts	do.

Mint of the United States
1 June 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ulto., approving of the tariff of charges on deposites at the Mint, referred to you for your concurrence, in my letter of the 22d.

I now respectfully propose that this tariff shall go into action from the beginning of July next. This short postponement is justified, as I think, by the propriety of time being allowed for all the Mints to act under the new tariff together, - and for avoiding to mingle two systems in our quarterly account.

It also seems proper that timely public notice should be given of a change in the Mint Charges that will so materially affect the proceeds of many of the deposites.

Very respectfully
your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Wm M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, June 7th, 1849.

Sir,

On the 7th of May, (one month ago,) the first gold-dollar dies were finished. On the day following, the Chief Coiner made a delivery to the Treasurer of 1000 of these coins. Successive deliveries, up to this time, have reached to the number of 256,039, and we have now on hand 20,760 more than are due to our depositors.

The only serious source of delay in this coinage arises from the fact that every blank piece or planchet has to be separately weighed; if too light, to be rejected; and if too heavy to be filed down to the standard weight. In this tedious operation nine men were employed, from early morning till 7 o'clock in he evening; and we are providing for a larger force if it shall rove necessary.

I make this communication in confidence that it will satisfy you that we have used every exertion to supply the legitimate demand made for this new coin, and that we have succeeded.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secy of the Treasury.

MCK

Mint of the United States, Philada
Treasurer's Office, June 16, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of yesterday, the 15th inst. The draft upon me for $300,000, as Assistant Treasurer U.S. I can pay and forward to New York, whenever it is presented to me. The draft for $200,000 on the Bullion fund of the Mint, payable in our gold coin, I will be able to send to New York on Wednesday next, the 20th inst.

At present the amount of gold coin in the Mint is small, say about $85,000. – this is owing to the greater labor and delay than usual in the gold coinage, occasioned by the large amount of gold dollars made to supply the demand for that coin; and is also in some measure attributable to the considerable amount of California gold received for coinage, which has to undergo the elaborate and somewhat tedious process of parting. I am however promised a delivery of coins sufficiently large to meet the ordinary demands and pay the draft before mentioned at the

at the

at the time I have stated.

In consequence of the fact that deposits of gold from California will constitute a considerable portion of Mint transactions, and in view of the great importance of prompt payment to depositors, it is worthy of consideration whether the deposits on Bullion account ought not to be increased, if the condition of the Treasury will permit it.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. servt.
James Ross Snowden
Treas. U.S. Mint.

Hon.ble Wm. M. Meredith
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, June 19, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a statement of the deposites and coinage at the Mint and its Branches, in May, 1849.

The value of the California gold brought to this Mint for coinage, up to the present day, is $633,000.

The number of gold-dollars coined to this day, is 362,539.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Jas. R. Snowden
Treas.
U. S. Mint, June 16, 1849.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, June 29, 1849.

Sir,

The provision in the 31st Section of the act of January 18, 1837, authorising deposites of public money to be made at the Mint by the Secretary of the Treasury, "for the purpose of enabling it to make the returns to depositors with as little delay as possible," has succeeded in its object up to the present time, so that prompt payments have been constantly made in return for deposites. This desirable condition in our Mint business is now unhappily interrupted, and I feel it my duty to report the fact to you.

The deposites recently received are very large, and a great part of them in California gold. Now this gold contains so much silver combined with it, that it requires to be parted by solution in acid, — a process giving rise to necessary delay. We have at this time, in the Mint, about $686,211 in gold requiring quartation. Every effort is made to hasten this operation, and measures are taken for enlarging the apparatus required. Still the present depositors must be detained from payment for a considerable time. There is now due to private depositors, in gold, $665,186,— and to the Assistant Treasurer at Boston, in return for foreign gold coins, $127,701.—

The drafts which you have recently made upon the government-deposite at the Mint, amounting to $411,115.30, have necessarily served, to that extent, to increase the delay of payment to other depositors.

If it be in your power again to increase the government-deposite, by a transfer of foreign gold coins, our present difficulty would be proportionally relieved. These coins do not require parting, or any other preparation that gives rise to delay, and the recoinage is therefore soon accomplished.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, July 7, 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and I am much gratified by your acceding to the suggestion which I had made respecting an increase in the Government Deposite in the Mint. I hope, by its aid, to be restored in a short time, to the power of making prompt returns to our depositors.

I have considered the application made by the Officers and Workmen of the Branch mint at Charlotte, and as I believe that their request is reasonable, and as similar requests have been heretofore granted without any serious inconvenience, I join in commending it to your favorable action.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

To/
Hon. Wm M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia July 17, 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to send enclosed a report of the deposites and coinage, at the Mint and its Branches during the month of June.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th, respecting a suggestion made to your Department, as to the propriety of reporting the amount of California gold, deposited in the Mint, weekly. When information is asked on this subject, it will always be cheerfully given by us; but I do not think it desirable that there should be a formal and official report weekly. While, however, the public curiosity continues so much excited in this matter, I propose to communicate, from time to time, information regarding it through the public press.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson
Director

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, July 21st 1849.

Sr,

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, an account of the profits on the re-coinage of foreign coins, and the expenses of transportation of foreign and U.S. coins, pursuant to the direction from the Department of Septr. 22, 1847.

Will you be so good as to issue your warrant, in my favor, for $295.80, the balance due to the ordinary fund of the Mint, from the United States.

I have the honor to be,
your obdt. Servant,

James Ross Snowden
Trd.

To,
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Dr. The United States in a/c with James Roſs Snowden, Treasurer of the Mint Cr.

his a/c of the receipts and expenditures in the transportation and recoinage of foreign coins, in pursuance of the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States

1849			Dollars	Cents	Dollars	Cents
January	24	To am't paid for freight on $100,000 foreign gold, from New York @ 37½ c per $1000	37	50		
February	19	" am't paid for freight from New York on $100,000 foreign gold @ 37½ c. per $1000	37	50		
"	"	" am't paid for freight from New York on $100000 foreign gold @ 37½ c. per $1000	37	50		
March	20	" am't paid for freight from New York on $100,000 foreign gold @ 37½ per $1000	37	50		
April	18	" am't paid for freight from Boston on $106,348.25 foreign gold @ 62½ c. per $1000	66	47		
"	"	" am't paid for freight from Boston on $651.75 foreign silver @ $2.00 per $1000	1	30		
"	23	" am't paid for freight from New York on $125,000 foreign gold @ 37½ per $1000	46	88		
May	25	" am't paid for freight from New York on $100,000 foreign gold @ 37½ per $1000	37	50		
"	26	" am't paid for freight from New York on $100000 foreign gold @ 37½ per $1000	37	50		
"	9	" am't paid for freight to Boston on $500 American silver (Dimes) @ $2.00 per $1000	1	00		
"	"	" am't paid for freight to Boston on $1500 American gold @ $0.62½ per $1000		94		
"	"	" am't paid for freight to Boston on $5000 American gold @ 62½ c per $1000	3	12		
"	24	" am't paid for freight to Boston on $5000 American gold @ 62½ c. per $1000	3	12		
"	28	" am't paid for freight to Boston on $5000 American gold @ 62½ c per $1000	3	12		
"	"	" am't paid for freight to Boston on $400.47 American silver @ $2.00 per $1000		80		
"	30	" am't paid for freight to Boston on $10,000 American gold @ 62½ c per $1000	6	25		
June	5	" am't paid for freight to Boston on $80,000 American gold @ 62½ c per $1000	50	00		
		As per Voucher herewith marked A			408	00
June	8	" am't paid for freight from New York, on $98,169.36 foreign gold @ 37½ per $1000	36	81		
"	9	" am't paid for freight from New York, on $101,830.64 foreign gold @ 37½ per $1000	38	19		
		As per Voucher herewith marked B			75	00
July	11	" am't paid for freight from New York on $300,000 foreign gold @ 37½ c. per $1000 As per Voucher herewith marked C			112	50
July	16	" am't paid for freight from Boston on $127,303 37/100 foreign gold, and returning the same @ $1.25 per $1000	159	13		
	"	am't paid for freight from Boston on $397.21 foreign silver, and returning the same @ $4.00 per $1000	1	59		
		As per Voucher herewith marked D			160	72
					$ 756	22

1849			Dollars	Cents	Dollars	Cents
March	21	By profits on the re-coinage of $100000 foreign gold coins received from New York	16	98		
April	26	" profits on the recoinage of $107,000 foreign gold coins received from Boston	4	34		
"	"	" profits on the recoinage of $125,000 foreign gold coins received from New York	9	69		
May	28	" profits on the recoinage of $200,000 foreign gold coins received from New York	21	19		
June	30	" profits on the recoinage of $200,000 foreign gold coins received from New York	32	71		
July	14	" profits on the recoinage of $300,000 foreign gold coins received from New York	67	61		
"	16	" profits on the recoinage of $127,701 foreign gold coins received from Boston	12	10		
		Total profits on recoinage			164	62
"	21	" One half the expenses of transportation beyond the profits on recoinage			295	80
"	"	" Balance due from the United States, being for one half of the expenses as above			295	80
					$ 756	22

Mint of the United States,
Treasurer's Office, 21 July, 1849.

James Roſs Snowden
Treasr.

e United States Mint

to Adams & Co. Dr.

24	Freight on $100.000 Foreign Gold from N. York @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000	$ 37	50
19	Do from N. York on $100.000 Foreign gold @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000	37	50
"	Do $100.000 For: Gold from N. York @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000	37	50
20	Do on $100.000 For: Gold fm N. Y. @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000	37	50
18	Do from Boston on $106.348 25/100 Foreign Gold @ 62½ ¢ per $1.000	66	47
"	Do from Boston on $651. 25/100 Foreign Silver @ $2.00. per $1.000	1	30
23	Do from N. York on $125.000 Foreign Gold @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000	46	88
25	Do fm N. Y. on $100000 For: Gold @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000	37	50
26	Do " Do $100.000 Do " " " "	37	50
9	Do to Boston on $500. American Silver (Dimes) @ $2.00 per $1.000	1	00
"	Do on $1.500 Am Gold to Boston @ 62½ ¢ per $1.000	—	94
"	Do on $5.000 Do " Do @ " " "	3	12
24	Do on $5.000 Do " Do @ " " "	3	12
28	Do on $5.000 Do " Do @ " " "	3	12
"	Do on $400.47/100 Am: Silver " Do @ $2.00 " "	—	80
30	Do on $10.000 Am Gold " Do @ 62½ ¢ " "	6	25
5	Do on $80.000 Do " Do @ " " "	50	—
		$408	00

Geo. W. Edelman for Clk.

Recd Payt. Phila. June 6th 1849

Adams & Co

Mr Edelman will please keep this copy for himself

MC

22½

The United States Mint

To Adams & Co Dr

1849				
une	8	For Freight on $98.169.36/100 Foreign Gold from New York @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000	$ 36	81
	9	" Freight on $101.830.64/100 Foreign Gold from New York @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000	" 38	19
			$ 75	00

Received payment June 1849

Correct Geo. W. Edelman
Treas^s Of. Clerk.

Adams & Co

The United States Mint

To Adams & Co Dr.

1849				
uly	11	For Freight on $300.000 Gold Coin from N. York @ 37½¢ per $1.000	$ 112	50

Received Payment July 18, 1849

orrect Geo. W. Edelman, Tr. of Clk.

Adams & Co

The United States Mint

To Adams & Co Dr.

1849				
July	16	For Freight on Foreign Gold from Boston to Philadelphia and back, say $127.303 97/100 @ $1.25 per $1.000	$159	13
"	"	" Do on Foreign Silver from Boston to Philada & back, $397 21/100 @ $4.00 per $1.000	1	59
			$160	72

8

Received payment July 18, 1849

Correct Geo. W Edelman Tr. Of. Clk.

Adams & Co

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Aug. 8, 1849.

Sir,

I have given careful attention to the subject referred to me in your letter of yesterday; and, in view of the whole matter, (with much of which I was already acquainted,) I believe that the request made by the Superintendent of the New Orleans Branch Mint, for a suspension of the usual Mint operations for six weeks, may be granted with little inconvenience to the depositors, and with great advantage to the changes and repairs which are required to be made.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Aug. 11, 1849.

Sir,

Your letter to Jos. M. Kennedy, Esq., Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, on the subject of a temporary suspension of the operations at that Mint, came enclosed to me this morning, and I have forwarded it to him.

I have received a report from James W. Osborne, Esq., as Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Charlotte N.C.; yet his official bond, required, (by Sect. 3 of the Branch Mint Act of March 3d. 1835) "before entering upon his duties", cannot have been approved, as it has not come into my hands. I presume that he has not been aware of the necessity of this previous step.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. Meredith,
Washington City.

From
R. M. Patterson,
Director U.S. Mint,
Philadelphia,
August 11, 1849.

Stating that he had received from the Department, a letter to the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint.

Calling attention to the fact that Jas. W. Osborne, Esq., now acting as Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Charlotte, had not presented an approved official bond.

MCK

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Aug. 21, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith, a Statement of the deposites and coinage, at the Mint and its Branches, in the month of July last.

The deposites of California gold, to the 31st of July inclusive, are

At the Philadelphia Mint,	$1,319,773.07
At the New Orleans Mint, - - -	175,918.73
	1,495,691.80
There has since been received at the Philadelphia Mint,	361,036.61
Total,	$1,856,728,41

Of what may have been received at New Orleans during the present month, I am not informed.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

The Magnetic Telegraph Company,

Between New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington,

(AND INTERMEDIATE STATIONS.)

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Please write plainly—answer quickly—*pre-pay;* use no figures, except dates, they cost more; give name, street, and number of the party addressed, to insure prompt delivery; also your own address under your signature; no charge for address and signature. The above is for your safety as well as our convenience

Office in WASHINGTON,........................Cor. of Louisiana Avenue and Sixth-St.
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Office in PHILADELPHIA,........................Quincy Granite Building, No. 101 Chesnut-st.
Office in NEW-YORK,........................No. 5 Hanover Street, Cor. of Beaver-St.

By Telegraph, Dated Phila. 1849.

Received, Washington, Sept 2 1849 12 o'clk 45 min. M.

To Hon Thos Corwin

Sir I have the honor to state that about two millions of dollars are due to depositors at New York.

James Ross Snowden
Treasurer

Bond & Affidavit
sent to Comptroller

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Sept. 3, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send inclosed the Official Bond of Mr. Anderson W. Redding, on his appointment as Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, in Georgia. I have given my certificate that the bond and the sureties are to my satisfaction, and I inclose the vouchers on which my opinion was founded.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, Sept. 19, 1849

Sir,

The gold brought to the Mint, from California, by the "Empire City", since the 14th inst., amounts to upwards of $520,000; and it has come to us with a large quantity of gold of the same kind still going, or to go, through the processes required for parting from it the silver which always accompanies it. The arrangements required for this operation, upon so large a scale as is now necessary, are not yet completed to our satisfaction, although every exertion has been made to accomplish this object. The consequence is that the coinage is far in arrear of the deposites, – the amount due to depositors exceeding a million of dollars. With a little more time, and with the government deposite undisturbed, we hope that this state of things will soon be corrected, and prompt payment be made to the depositors.

There is notice received, to day, from the Department, of a draft upon the Mint for $200,000. Even this moderate amount is sensibly felt by us, and has led to the disappointment of our depositors. Our

Treasurer

Treasurer informs me that he has a large balance on hand in the assistant Treasury. Can not the direction of the draft be changed; or the amount be restored to the Bullion Fund from the Assistant Treasury?

Very respectfully
your faithful servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Sept. 20, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith, a Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Mint and Branches, in the month of August, 1849.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Oct. 5, 1849.

Sir,

The letter sent to you from Wm. J. Alexander, Esq., late Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Charlotte, and which you have referred to me for my opinion of the case which it presents, was duly received; but I found it out of my power to give a satisfactory answer without further information. For this I have applied to the present Superintendent, and, on receiving his answer, I will give my opinion as you request.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,

Sir, Philadelphia, Oct. 8th 1849.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst, inquiring whether the employment of additional force might not, in some degree, prevent the delay at the Mint in paying the deposites of bullion for coinage.

In answer I have to state, that our difficulty has arisen, not from the quantity, but the character of the California Gold, which is such as to require that all this gold shall undergo the process of parting. For this operation, upon so large a scale, our arrangements were not sufficient, and our Melter & Refiner, Mr. McCulloh, had committed to him the duty of enlarging his apparatus. In doing this he introduced some changes in which he placed great confidence, but which increased the expense and the time required. While this work was in process, an increase of Mint operators was not demanded. It was, however, so far completed, a short time since, as to be set in operation, and to the eight original hands in this department four have been added. The work is now going on more rapidly; but if I find that it is still not able to keep pace with the deposites, I will not hesitate further to increase our force.

Very respy, your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

P.S.

Hon. W. M. Meredith.
Sec. of the Treasury

Postscript. — I take the liberty of presenting the following statement, as not inappropriate to the subject of the letter.

California Gold.

Deposites at U.S. Mint, from Jan 1, to Aug. 31,	$ 1,740,620.07
Do. New Orleans do.	260,086.80
	2,000,706.87
Do U.S. Mint in September	656,210.19
New Orleans not reported	
Total as far as ascertained	$ 2,656,917.0

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Oct. 19, 1849.

Sir,

The letter, which I return inclosed, was sent by you, on the 5th inst., for my opinion in the case which it presents. I then replied that I found it out of my power to give a satisfactory answer, until I received information for which I had applied to Mr. Osborne, the present Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Charlotte. I have this morning received his answers to my inquiries, and they are such as to satisfy me that the building in question was "necessary and expedient", and would have been allowed to Mr. Alexander, had he applied, as he ought to have done, for liberty to build it.

The house is 16 feet by 12, built of brick and plastered; and the cost, viz. $ 232.25, seems to be moderate.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Oct. 26, 1849.

Sir,

Mr. Richard S. McCulloh, Melter and Refiner of this Mint, has received from the Trustees of Princeton College, and has accepted, the appointment of Professor of Natural Philosophy in that Institution. In consequence of this engagement, he has communicated to the President of the United States his resignation of the office which he has long filled at the Mint with zeal, fidelity, and untiring industry.

The place to be filled, in consequence of this resignation, requires qualifications rarely to be met with. Great trust has to be reposed in the officer, and he must use unceasing care to prevent the wastage to which the operations of the department are peculiarly liable. It is moreover very desirable, if not indispensable, that he be a Chemist, since the processes of combining, refining, and separating the metals, which constitute his duties, are all chemical.

There is fortunately a gentleman in this city who combines, in an eminent degree, the qualifications thus demanded. I refer to Professor James C. Booth. After completing his College course in the University of Pennsylvania, he spent three years in the chemical laboratories in Berlin, Cassel, and Vienna, and since his return has made Chemistry his profession, having been Professor of Chemistry applied to the Arts in the Franklin Institute, and having established a School for teaching Chemical analysis. Such a man could not fail to bring strength and character to the Mint, in a department exclusively chemical.

Ten years ago, on the occurrence of a vacancy in the same office, I earnestly urged the appointment of Prof. Booth; but without success, for a reason in no way affecting his character, and which certainly would not now be an objection to his claim. I now renew my recommendation, with the same earnestness, and in nearly the same terms. For a confirmatio of what I have said, I think I may take the liberty of referring to yourself and to Mr. Clayton.

Let me ask that you will do me the honor of communicating to the President my views in favor of the candidate whom I take the liberty of recommending to his favor.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

To
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Melter & Refiner's Office
Octr 25th 1849

To His Excellency,
Zachary Taylor,
Presdt of the United States,
Sir,

Having been elected Professor of Natural Philosophy in the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, I, hereby, resign the Office of Melter & Refiner of the U. S. Mint, — this resignation to take effect as soon as it shall be found practicable for me to deliver to the Treasurer of the Mint all the bullion which may be in my hands, in suitable form & condition for the settlement of my account.

With the highest respect
Your Obt Servt
R. S. McCulloh

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Novr. 7, 1849.

Sir,

In compliance with the request made in your letter of the 1st ulto., the scales required for the Assistant Treasurer at Charleston were purchased of Meyers & Co., and I now have the honor to enclose his bill for the same, and also a bill of lading showing its shipment, to be delivered to Mr. Martin. I also send, by this days mail, a duplicate bill of lading to Mr. Martin.

If the draft in favor of Mr. Meyer be sent to my care, I will with pleasure attend to the payment of his bill.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Secy of the Treasury.

[Printed & Sold at No. 7 South Sixth Street.

HIPPED

in good order and well-conditioned, by F. Meyers & Co
in and upon the good Steam Ship called *The* Columbus
whereof Peck —— is Master for the present voyage,
and now lying in the Port of Philadelphia, and bound for Charleston S.C.

To say, Two Boxes.

Scales

M Martien
arleston S.C.

being marked and numbered as in the margin, and are to be delivered in the like good order and well-conditioned, at the aforesaid Port of Charleston (the danger of the seas only excepted) unto Wm M Martien or to His assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods,

Seven 80/100 dollars

with primage and average accustomed. *In witness whereof*, the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath affirmed to 3 Bills of Lading, all of this tenor and date; the one of which being accomplished, the other s —— to stand void.

Dated at Philadelphia, this 7th — day of Nov 1849

Contents Unknown J B Peck

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia,
Nov. 27, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a Statement of the Deposites and Coinage at the Mint and its Branches, in the month of October.

I also send, in compliance with the request made in your letter of yesterday, a copy of the Report of the Operations of the Mints in August last.

The amount of deposites of California gold, at this Mint, from the beginning of the year to the 24th inst., was about $3,910,000.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, Dec. 10, 1849

Sir,

By the 3d. Section of the Mint Law of Jan. 18, 1837, it is enacted "that the Director shall appoint, with the approbation of the President, Assistants to the Assayer, Melter & Refiner, Chief Coiner, and Engraver, whenever, on representation made by the Director to the President, it shall be the opinion of the President that such assistants or clerks are necessary"

Under the terms of this enactment the Treasurer had three clerks, and he continued to have this number until two years since, when, on the occurrence of a vacancy, the number was reduced to two; and they proved sufficient, until the introduction of the California gold, which has so greatly increased the labor in the Treasurer's Department, as to make the employment of an additional clerk of urgent necessity, and I therefore, now, most respectfully ask, through you, for the Presidents consent to this measure.

I beg leave to confirm my request by the following statements.

The number of gold and silver deposite warrants, in 1847, amounted to 1302; in 1848 they amounted to 1102; thus making the total in these two years 2404. Now the number of warrants in the 11 months of the present year is 2416; being more than equal to the whole number in the two preceding years; and the deposites of the pre ent month are likely to exceed those of any previous one.

As a necessary consequence the labor in preparing certificates & warrants, in paying depositors, in preparing blanks for the assay reports, and depositors memorandum and in the accounts and abstracts sent to the Departmen has been increased in the like proportion. But, in fact the office labor is increased in a much greater proportion than the mere increase of deposites would indicate. By far the greater part of these are in California gold, and most of them contain a sufficient proportion of silver to be reported for the benefit of the depositor. Whenever this is the case a calculation must be made, 1st of the amount of Standard gold, and its value; 2d. of the amount of Standard silver, and its value, 3d. of the charges for parting them, and for the silver and copper alloy used in preparing them for coinage; lastly, of the net amount payable to the Depositor. The labor of calculating a partible deposit is therefore at least three times that of one not partible. It is necessary, also, for the security of the depositors and the government that these estimates be doubly verified, and accordingly no deposite is paid until separate calculations, made by different clerks, are shown to correspond.

These labors have proved to be too heavy for the clerks, and I, therefore, most respectfully and earnestly beg that the President may consent to the engagement of an additional clerk.

In the 7th sect. of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837, it is enacted "that such annual salaries shall be allowed to the clerks as the Director may determine, with the approbation of the President; Provided, that a clerk shall not receive more than twelve hundred dollars. This sum, of $1200, is paid to the Clerks now in the Mint, and I would respectfully recommend that the additional clerk should receive the same amount.

Very respectfully,
your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec. of the Treasury

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia,
Dec. 15, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 14th, conveying the gratifying statement that the President had authorised the appointment of an additional Clerk at the Mint, as I had respectfully requested.

Under the terms of the 3d Sect. of the Mint Act of Jan 18, 1837, this Clerk is to be "appointed by the Director, with the approbation of the President." I accordingly solicit the approbation of the President to the appointment of Mr. George F. Dunning, as a Clerk for the Treasurer of the Mint.

Mr. Dunning was appointed Clerk of the Director on the 1st of January 1838, and he continued to occupy this place until June 1845, when he went to Brunswick, Maine, to take charge of his father's estate. I cannot speak in terms too high, of his attention, intelligence, and gentlemanly demeanor. All the Officers and Clerks who were at the Mint when he was here, hold him in the highest regard, and are anxious for his return.

Mr.

Mr. Dunning's connexion with the Mint, of more than seven years, has enabled me to recommend him to the President with confidence; — and I shall refer for a confirmation of my judgment to but one other person who knows him well, — the Hon. George Evans, now, as I believe, at Washington.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

P.S. It may not be improper to mention to you, that the gentleman whom I recommend, is a brother of Mr. Robert D. Dunning, with whom I understand that you are acquainted; and that he is married to a daughter of the late Joseph O'Brien of this city.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
Dec. 17, 1849.

Sir,

In compliance with the consent given in your letter of the 28th ult., I have caused a set of weights to be made by Messrs. Meyer & Co., for W. M. Martin, Esqr. Assistant Treasurer at Charleston, S.C. The weights are now at the Mint, to be adjusted by our Chief Coiner; and as soon as this is done they will be sent to Mr. Martin.

As the work of Meyer & Co. is completed, I send their bill for the same. It includes a sum of Six dollars for a box with lining, which had not been included in the contract, but which is of absolute necessity.

If the draft in favor of Mr. Meyer be sent to my care, I will with pleasure attend to the payment.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

$\#\frac{22\,4}{88}$

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
Dec. 20, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a Statement of the Deposites and Coinage, at the Mint and Branches, in the month of November, 1849.

The deposites of California gold, at this Mint, from Jan. 1, to November 30, 1849, amount to	$3,857,941.87
The deposites from Dec. 1, to Dec. 20, may be estimated at	1,180,000.
Total California gold, thus far in the year	5,037,941.87
Deposites of California gold at New Orleans, from Jan. 1, to Nov. 30, 1849, — — — —	505,734.10
Total California gold at both Mints for the present year, thus far, as known, — —	$5,543,675.97

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Dec. 22, 1849

Sir,

After a long delay, which it was not in my power to control, I am at length able to send to you the enclosed double-eagle, and to refer it to your judgment. If it meets your approbation, I must beg that you will let me know, at the earliest time, in order that as many of these coins as possible may be struck in the few days that remain of the present year.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Wm M. Meredith,
Secy of the Treasury.

Gold or base-metal?
First Obv—undoubtedly.

(Confidential.)

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Dec. 25, 1849.

Sir,

When, on the death of Christian Gobrecht, in July 1844, a vacancy occurred in the office of Engraver of the Mint, I wrote to the President a letter, in which were the two following paragraphs which I take the liberty of laying before you.

"I am exceedingly desirous that the vacancy ~~to~~ which has occurred should be filled by an accomplished artist. I believe that all the mechanical processes of our coinage are as perfect as those of any of the European Mints, but it is not to be denied that a higher state of art is exhibited in the engraving of their dies.

" It is not necessary, for the purposes of the Mint, that the office of Engraver should be filled at an early day. The dies which are actually used in coining are made by a process which is almost entirely mechanical, and which does not, therefore, require the hand of an artist. It is to make a new set of original dies, so much needed for the perfection of our coinage, that an Engraver is especially wanted, and no ordinary workman can perform this task. I hope, however, that with time for inquiry, some individual may be presented to your notice, competent to fill the vacant office satisfactorily."

In the September following, without my knowledge, Mr. Longacre received the appointment. He was a man of excellent personal character, of good taste, and a skilful engraver, - but not a die-sinker. So long as his duties were confined to the finishing of dies already made, no difficulties occurred. But when the dies for the Gold Dollar, and the Double Eagle, were required, his want of skill in die-making became apparent, especially in the slowness with which he worked. For the consequent delay the most bitter attacks have been made upon the Mint. For the last failure, in the Double Eagle dies, the cry will no doubt be renewed; and with more justice than ever. It is hard that the whole Mint establishment should be involved in this outcry; and I wish, at least, that the true state of the case be known in the Department to which we are accountable.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

From
R. M. Patterson
Director U.S. Mint
Philadelphia
Dec. 25, 1849.

Confidential.

Respecting the Engravership of the Mint.

Enquires if he knows any die-sinker of eminent ability who in his judgt, should be appd to Mr Longacre's place

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Dec. 25, 1849.

Sir,

On the 22d inst., I had the honor to send you a double-eagle, and to refer it to your judgment. This specimen had been struck with a heavy hand press. Since then a number have been coined by the ordinary steam-press, and the unhappy result has been reported to me, by the Chief Coiner, in the letter which I send enclosed. I think it proves that the obverse die is in too high a relief for coinage, and that a new one must be made. If the time required for this work, by the Engraver of the Mint, may be judged from that engaged upon the former, the delay will be very considerable.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

To/
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philada Dec 24th 49

Sir

It is with extreme regret, and after the most earnest endeavours to overcome the difficulty, that I am compelled to inform you that the impression upon the new die for the double Eagle cannot be brought up by the usual Coining process, the depth of the head of the obverse is such, that the Steel will not sustain the degree of pressure necessary for a perfect impression, to this is to be added the minor disadvantage of the projection of the head beyond the border of the Coin, preventing its being "piled," (as it is technically expressed,) and exposing it to abrasion, &c

Very respectfully
& Your Obt Servant
F. Peale.
Chief Coiner.

Dr R. M. Patterson
Director

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Dec. 29, 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, — suggesting, as I believe, the only effectual remedy for the evil under consideration.

The only die-sinker in the United States, known to me as competent to fill the office of Mint-Engraver, is Mr. C. C. Wright of New York, — the artist who executed the medals voted by Congress to General Taylor and General Scott.

I have taken the liberty of writing a confidential letter to him, inquiring whether, if appointed, he would accept the office in question, and I will inform you of his decision as soon as I have it.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

U.S. Branch Mint, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office 5 March 1849.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for your consideration & action, the enclosed Correspondence between this Office and the First Comptroller of the Treasury Department.

I am Sir
with respect
yr obd^t Sv^t
John K. Macmurdo
Treasurer.

To the Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

(Duplicate)

~~Copy~~

Hon: R. J. Walker,
Secy. of the Treasy.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans May 31, 1848.

Sir,

The premises in the Mint building, alotted to the Supt. as a residence, not having been originally designed as such, but subsequently appropriated for that purpose, by the then Secretary of the Treasury, without any alteration, I believe, in the first distribution thereof, I respectfully beg leave to make a change in the communication between the two first rooms of the principal story, by closing the single door which now exists, and causing one to be opened in each of the two panels, by which the said rooms are divided. –

I desire also, with your permission, to attach as a means of communication between the residence of the Coiner and his Office, a four foot gallery, to the outside of that now used by that Officer, for that purpose, which is in front of a portion of my dwelling, and which may then be made private; and to enclose, also for the sake of privacy, that portion of the passage way in the Basement story which is next to the dwelling of the Superintendt, giving another egress to the Coiner and his household, thro' his own yard. – For the reasonableness of this application in all its particulars, I ask leave to refer you to Mr. Parker, Supt. of the Marine Hospital, who has made a personal inspection of the premises. The whole expense will not exceed $200. – Respectfy. Yr. Obt. Sert.

J. M. Kennedy Su

Copy

Treasury Department,
Comptroller's Office,
February 22d 1849.

Sir,

Your account of Ordinary Expenses for the 4th quarter of 1847, have been adjusted at the Treasury, and a balance of $12.209.10. stated to be due from you to the United States.

	Balance per your accounts	$ 4.702.59
Add.	Expenses of the collection of a Treasury draft - suspended for the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury	" 168.75
"	Amount charged for illuminating the Mint, suspended for a like authority	" 76.60
"	Warrants not credited, viz:	
	No. 2126. dated January 26th 1848	" 2.000.00
	" 2127. " " " "	" 12.000.00
		$ 18.947.94
Deduct,	Balance of Profit & Loss, for the year 1847. not charged	" 6.738.84
		$ 12.209.10

You are requested to explain why 20.000. cents were purchased for the Melting Department, at their value by tale.—

20.000. cents at said value make $200.—

20.000. cents weigh 480 lbs. which at 32 cents per pound, make " 153.60

$ 46.40

You are also requested to explain the necessity for using the United States Copper Coins for the Melting Department, and especially at tale value.

Very respectfully
Your Ob. Svt.
(Signed) J.W. McCulloch
Comptroller

John R. Macmurdo, Esq:
Treasurer of the Mint
New Orleans

Copy

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office 3d March 1849.

Sir,

I have received your letter of 22d ulto, stating the adjustment of my accounts for the 4th Quarter of 1847, of "Ordinary Expenses," and of "Gold & Silver Bullion purchased for Coinage".

I regret to find two items in my Ordinary expenses account unadjusted, being suspended for the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury. - When the fact of the suspension of these items was first communicated to me by you, I laid it before the Superintendent of the Mint, and requested him to address the Secretary of the Treasury, and to obtain the necessary authority. - I have reason to believe that the Supt wrote as requested by me, and I suppose that the matter, owing to the pressure of more important engagements, escaped the attention of Mr Walker. - In regard to the first item, say $168.75. expense of the collection of a Treasury draft, it appears to be justified, not only by the circumstances under which the expense was incurred, but also by precedent. - The Mint was considerably in debt, and the public creditors clamorous for payment, when the draft came to hand - it was drawn upon the Assistant Treasurer at New York, and the exchange at the time being unfavorable, it was impossible to obtain cash funds for the draft at par – the best arrangement for realizing the value of the draft was made. – I say that it was justified also by precedent, for on a similar occasion, say under date 16th Augt 1845, as will appear by my accounts of "Ordinary Expenses" for the 3d quarter of 1845, I received a premium on a Treasury draft remitted for same purposes, amounting to $110. – which was placed to the credit of the Government.

In regard to the second item suspended, say $76.70. charged for illuminating the Mint, in honor of the victories of our Army in Mexico, I think there ought to be no hesitation in allowing it. – Apart from all other considerations, viewing it only as a question of economy to the government, it ought to be allowed, for had it not been done, I believe every pane of glass in the building would have been broken; to repair such an injury, would have cost the government five times the cost of the illumination. – I shall send to the Secretary of the Treasury a copy of this communication, and I trust that he will see the justice of the case, and give the required authority.

In reply to your enquiry, why 20.000. cents were purchased for the Melting department, at their value by tale, I have to state that the Officer at the head of that department, made a requisition for the Copper Coins to be used in his gold operations for alloy, and because at the moment he could not find other Copper suited to his purpose, and because these coins were in the possession of the Post Master, who had received them from the Philadelphia Mint, at their value by tale, and would only part with them on the same terms. – Trusting that this explanation will be deemed satisfactory

I remain Sir,
very respectfully,
Your Obdt. Servt.
(Signed) John R. Macmurdo,
Treasurer

J. W. McCulloh, Esq:
First Comptroller, Treasy Dept.
Washington, D.C

5

325

Washington March 28. 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to state, that I am now on my return to the Branch Mint at New Orleans of which I am the Superintendent, from the Mint of the U. S. at Philadelphia, to which I had been ordered by the late Secretary of the Treasury under date of the 8th Feb. last, and that I occupy the residence in the said Branch Mint alotted to the incumbent of the Office which I fill.

I beg leave further to remark that the only communi=cation between the two principal rooms of said residence is a small door at the extreme end of the partition by which they are divided, in consequence of which, the heat of our climate in the summer season, in one of the rooms refer'd to, is rendered almost insufferable for the want of a proper ventilation - I therefore would respectfully ask permission to close the communication now existing, and to open one in each of the two pannels or arches of the partition to which I have alluded. A certificate can be produced that the work may be done without affecting the solidity of the Building.

I would also state that the grounds attached to the Dwelling of the Superintendent are much exposed to the public gaze by the nature of their

Copy of a letter from the
[illegible] B. Mint at N. Orleans

inclosure, which is nothing more than an iron railing with the bars about six inches apart — I would, therefore also beg leave to contract for the planting of some shrubs which w^d serve as a hedge to intercept the view from the Street — The whole cost of what I now ask for w^d not exceed $100.

Very respectfully
Y^r ob. Servant
J M Kennedy

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Secretary
of the Treasury.

Sup^t U.S.
Branch Mint at
New Orleans.

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans July 24th 1849

Sir,

You will perceive by the document herewith enclosed, that the Coining and Melting Departments of this Mint, require certain alterations and repairs, which, in the opinion of the Chief Officer thereof, cannot be executed without a Suspension of the Coining operations of the Establishment — I respectfully ask your instructions in the premises — We have enough now to do, without taking another deposit, to keep us at work until the first of September, and I think it highly probabl that the services of the Mint will be required by the Public during that month, altho not in an equal degree. In October, our business season usually commences, and an interruption of our labours, at that time, might be seriously felt. If you will permit me to make a suggestion I would state, that the Mint can be put in good repair and conditio in about six weeks, and that the most eligib period for so doing, according to present appearances, would be from about the first of September to about the 15th of October, and further, that the public inconvenience resulting from a suspension would be lessened, by the melting of deposits merely for assay and the issuing of certificates which would be negotiable —

Very respectfully
Yr ob servant
J M Kennedy
Supt

To the Honble
Wm M. Meredith
Secy of the Treas.
Washington
D. C.

Extracts from the "Superintendent's Record for Officers' requisitions, U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans."

"No. 449. July 20. 1849. "To shield myself from responsibility hereafter, in relation to any accidents, or contingencies that may occur in my Department, I desire to state, that in consequence of the settling of the building, our Steam engine and main shafting requires "relieving" and repairing, and the floor in the rolling-room requires renewing, (as verbally explained to the Superintendent a few days since). – I would further add, that a new force-pump and its attachments are wanted, and that some considerable time will be required to accomplish this work, which is incompatible with the regular operations of the Mint." –

Respectfully
(Signed) John Brooks
Coiner

To
the Superintendent

"July 21. 1849. "The windows and doors would be the better for a coat or two of paint. From the shaking of the building the putty is constantly falling, which causes expenses in repairs of glass. – The doors on the gallery need painting very much, as the paint is

"peeling off, leaving the wood exposed to the action
"of the weather. - The smell of paint is very offensive,
"but all that is required would not cause a delay
"of more than three or four days

Very respectfully
(Signed) Wm P. Hort
Assayer

"To
the Superintendent

"P.S. tables, cupboards &c. would be the
"better for a coat of paint."
H.

"July 21. 1849. "The separating apparatus requires
"to be modified, according to the plan adopted at
"the Philadelphia Mint, in order to save the acid. - New
"furnaces have to be built, a variety of less conspicuous
"but equally important details of the separating ap-
"paratus have to be arranged. - I have delayed
"commencing this work, hoping that an early suspen-
"sion might afford me an opportunity of having the
"work done in a proper and substantial manner.
"The chimneys of the Silver Deposit and Gold
furnaces are in want of repairs, the partition
"walls between the flues having fallen down to the
"great injury of the draught. I have, moreover,
"a lot of base bullion, of the late Melter & Refiner's
"final balance on hand, which I intend to refine
"during the suspension, should it be determined

"upon. – For the preservation of the building, the
"most thorough repairs, generally, and painting
"are necessary."

Respectfully
(Signed) M. F. Bonzano
Melter & Refiner

"P.S. The work specified within is, I think,
"incompatible with the coinage operations of
"my department." B.

To
the Supt.

N. Orleans Dec. 20. 1849

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a document, containing extracts from Reports recently made to me by the Coiner, Melter & Refiner and Treasurer of this Mint in relation to an increase of the number of Workmen now allowed to us by law, and of the present compensation received by the Mint Clerks. The additional labor throughout the entire Establishment occasioned by our large receipts of California gold renders it very necessary that the recommendations of the Officers above named should be supported — I beg leave to add that the delays which now occur, from necessity, in the payment of our depositors, have in some instances given dissatisfaction. This can only be remedied by a large addition to our Government fund for the Purchase of Bullion. It should be made at least Five hundred thousand dollars —

With regard to the personal application of Mr. Marmedo, I think it is founded upon justice — Eight hundred dollars pr. annum, for rent, would be a reasonable allowance — Very resp. y. obt. servt.

Jos. M. Kennedy Supt

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith
Secy of the Treasury

Extract from a report made by the Melter & Refiner
to the Superintendent of the Branch Mint of the United
States at New Orleans, Lou.ª

"In order to do justice to our depositors, it will be neceſsa-
"ry to increase the number of workmen in the Melting
"Department to 12, to be distributed as follows:"

"For the melting of Silver ingots and deposites,
"filing ingots, picking iron pots, toughening and
"refining silver bullion" 6

"For the melting of Gold ingots & deposites,
"toughening of gold bullion, granulating, fluxing
"fine gold, washing & grinding gold Sweep" . . 2

"For attending to separation of gold, precipi-
"tating the silver solutions, edulcorating the preci-
"pitated chloride of silver, reducing the same, and
"fluxing the fine Silver so obtained" 2

"For screening, carrying in and hoisting up
"the Charcoal, and for grinding" 1

"For washing silver and gold sweeps" . . . 1

"In all twelve men" . . . . . 12.

"Respectfully,"
(Signed) "M. F. Bonzano"
December 17th 1849. "Melter & Refiner"

Extract from a report made by the Coiner to the Supt.
of the Branch Mint of the U. States at New Orleans, La.

"I beg leave to remark that the increased amount
"of ingots, resulting from the labors of the augmented
"number of workmen required by the Melter &
"Refiner, will be immediately followed by addition
"al labor in the Coining Department to the amount

"of four more workmen."

Respectfully,
(Signed) "John Brooks"
"Coiner"

Dec. 17. 1849.

Extract from a report made by the Treasurer to the Supt. of the Branch Mint of the United States, at New Orleans, La.

"In connexion with the subject of the foregoing
"remarks of the Melter & Refiner, and the Coiner, in reply
"to those of the Supt. under date 17th. instant, I beg
"leave to say that, as Congreſs will be called on for
"action in the premises, it may be a good time, to bring
"to the notice of that body, the subject of the insuffi-
"ciency of the salaries at present allowed by Law, to
"the two clerks in my department. - The duties per-
"formed by the present incumbents, with so much
"ability and fidelity, are exceedingly onerous and
"responsible, and with the contemplated increase of
"workmen in the Coining and Melting Departments,
"the labors of these clerks will undoubtedly be increased.
"To show the neceſsity of an increase of salaries, I
"would remind the Supt. of the fact, already known
"to him, that for some years past, I have been under
"the neceſsity of giving to one of the gentlemen, the
"sum of Five hundred dollars per annum, out of
"my own pocket. - This has been found absolutely
"neceſsary to retain his services, and as the same
"neceſsity would exist, were his place occupied by
"any other equally competent person, I trust that
"the Secretary of the Treasury will be induced to

"ask from Congreſs an increase of pay, so as to give
"each of the Clerks, say Eighteen hundred dollars per
"annum.- It is not neceſsary to say any thing here, of
"the expensiveneſs of living in this City, all this being
"so well known already to the Superintendent."

"If the Superintendent thinks it proper to include
"in his report to the Secretary, a recommendation in
"my favor, for the reimbursement to me, of the amount
"that I am out of pocket, by reason of the extra allow-
"ance to Mr. Wickes, I shall be much obliged by his
"so doing.- And I would also ask it as a favor at his
"hands, to endeavour to obtain for me, by special
provision in the contemplated changes in the law, a
"proper allowance for my house rent, as I am the only
"Officer in the Mint unprovided for in that respect."—
"Having resigned my office as Treasurer, in July last,
"(although, for want of a succeſsor, still discharging the
"duties of said office), I trust Congress will not refuse
"to let such extra compensation, as they may deem reason-
"able, take date from the period when I entered upon
"the duties of the Office.- If the Superintendent consents
"to embody this recommendation in his report, I ask
"that he will state also, at same time, what sum per
"annum, he may consider a proper allowance for my
"rent."

"Respectfully,"
(Signed) "John R. Macmurdo,"
"Treasurer"

Dec. 18. 1849.

Surveyors Office
New Orleans Jany 3d 1849

Sir,

I took the liberty on the 13th ulto. to present some hints to the Treasury Department on the subject of the Establishment of an United States Mint at San Francisco California —

I would respectfully suggest to the Hon the Secretary of the Treasury the propriety of placing the machinery and all the necessary implements &c to put into complete operation the coinage of Bullion in California on board of a good commodious Ship, perhaps a Brig of War and to send the same forthwith to California — During the passage the machinery furnaces &c could be put up and complete ready upon the arrival of the vessel to go to coining — The vessel could be securely anchored in a safe place in the Bay. A guard of Marines attached to the ship &c.

I am told there would be no difficulty — in all this — by a gentleman who is the Machinist in the U S Mint here and who understands practically the whole matter —

I consider it unnecessary to go into particulars, the suggestion will suggest to the Department the whole feasibility of the operation — Its great advantage is time saved which is all that is considered important —

I am Sir
Very Respectfully
Your Ob. Servt.
David Hayden

To
Hon. R. J. Walker,
Sec. of Treasury
Washington
D. C.

(Confidential.)

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
Jan. 2d. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you the subjoined copy of a letter received this morning from Mr. C. C. Wright. You will see that he would willingly accept the appointment of Engraver of the Mint, if offered to him.

For his qualifications, he may safely refer to the superior manner, and the short time, in which he executed the dies for the large medals voted by Congress to General Taylor and General Scott.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Over leaf.

Mint of the United States
6 Jany 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send, enclosed, a copy of a letter addressed by me, on the 4th inst to the Hon. Jas. G. King, in reply to certain inquiries which he had presented to me. As I have had occasion, in that letter, to enter at some length into the causes of the present indebted condition of the Mint, & the prospect of its cessation, I have thought it not improper to give you an opportunity of perusing it.

Very respectfully
your faithful serv't
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy
Washington.

Nothing enclosed

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Jan. 9, 1850.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday, I have the honor to present the following statements received from the Treasurer.

There is now in the Assistant Treasury the sum of $960,000. But of this amount there was received $706,652.95 in foreign gold coins, which were deposited with the Mint for recoinage, under the provision of the 3d Sect. of the act of Feb. 9, 1793; and, in order to be able to pay, as early as possible, the sums due to individual depositors, the amount stated above has not been handed over to the Assistant Treasury, which holds, instead, the certificates of the Mint.

If you will draw the proposed amount of $200,000, upon the Assistant Treasury, the half of this, at least, can be received by it from the Mint, and you can be supplied with new coins, of all the varieties of coinage.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Washington
11 Jany '50

Hon. Wm. Meredith

Dear Sir

Will you permit a clerk to send me – a note of following items for 5 Years past

1 Annual Amount coined at each of the four mints of U.S. –
2 " amount of expences, beyond Salaries of do –
3 " amount of deductions from depositors – including value of silver retained. –
4 " cost of the several Mint Establishments.
5 " cost of Machinery in each do –
6 " amount of expences beyond Salaries –

for which I shall be obliged –

If there be any Pub. docts. containing this information, a reference to them will answer my purpose and save trouble.

With great respect
I am truly Yours
James G. King

I thank you for your private note of yesty. and will write to N.Y. about it to day – would it not be possible to postpone the issue of the Instructions until next week? –

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Jan. 16, 1850.

ir,

As measures seem about to be taken for establishing a Branch
Mint in California, it is important that attention should be called
o a provision in the existing laws, which, if not modified, would make
oinage, at the proposed Mint, exceedingly expensive, if not impracti-
able.

The provision in question is in the act of Jan. 18, 1837, section 8th,
hich requires that "the alloy of gold coins shall be of copper and sil-
er, provided that the silver do not exceed one half of the whole alloy".

I would suggest that in an act establishing a Branch Mint in
California, it be provided; That the alloy of the gold coins made at
hat Branch Mint shall be of silver alone, or of copper and silver, as
he Director of the Mint, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treas-
ry, may from time to time prescribe.

The reasons which call for this change are as follows:

The gold of California is naturally alloyed with silver only, and in
he average proportions of 888 parts gold to 108 parts silver, per thous-
nd, the presence of a little iron being of no practical moment.

Judging from the monthly importations of that gold, for the last
months, into our Atlantic ports, a Branch Mint there would prob-
bly be called to operate upon one million of dollars worth monthly; which
timate, though it adds something to our actual receipts, does not include
y that would be shipped for European account. The equivalent of that sum,
weight, is about 54,000 ounces; say 650,000 ounces annually. To
mply with the existing law, even in its lowest demands, there would need
o be subjected to the chemical process of parting, three fifths of that
mount, say 390,000 ounces. So prodigious an amount of work of this

kind is probably no where performed, if we except the Mint here, and t refineries of Russia. The difficulty does not, indeed, lie in that fact; but in this other coupled with it, – that, of all countries, California is the mos illy provided for such work. This is so, from the want of materials; from remoteness from the manufactories of those materials; and because those mate or some of them, are of such a kind as it is difficult and expensive to transport; and because labor is costly.

The 390,000 ozs of gold would require 150,000 lbs of nitric acid for the parting. Without the greatest precautions in packing, to prevent the escape of any portion of that destructive fluid, or even of its fumes, vessels m not carry it at all, certainly not below deck. It is carried on deck to New Orleans; but this carriage would not be risked on a voyage eight tim as distant, and around Cape Horn. Besides this, there would be required large quantities of sulphuric acid, zinc, nitre, and common salt. Fuel, also, an article of prime importance in a refinery, costs, at present, in San Francisco, forty to fifty dollars per cord of a slender scrubby oak, and thirt dollars per ton of anthracite coal; the wood being imported from Oregon, and the coal from Vancouver's island and from Pennsylvania. And not les of all, six additional workmen would be necessary, at wages certainly not less than six dollars, per diem, each.

It is evident, therefore, that the silver parted out would not pay the expenses, much less be of any advantage to depositors.

Another capital objection is, that the necessity of so much refining would occasion delay and uncertainty as to coinage and payment; of which, with all our advantages, we have had sufficient proof.

The amendment proposed, though it would require some refining to bring the gold up to the standard of nine-tenths, would remove the only serious obstacle to the project, so far as is perceived, and render the operations of the Branch Mint easy, rapid, and comparatively cheap The coins would be the same as ours in the essential properties of weight fineness, and value, and although paler in color, would be uniform in that respect among themselves, and not different from the gold coins of the Pacific coast generally.

In the course of time, however, it is probable that the difficulties now existing might be so far removed that the parting of the silver may become desirable, and hence a provision for this contingency has been proposed.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia.
Jan. 16, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a report of the Operations of the Mint and its Branches, for the month of December.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

(Private.)

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Jan. 16, 1850.

Dear Sir,

The letter which I send herewith is, as I believe, of great importance to the question of establishing a Mint at San-Francisco. I hope therefore that you will give it a proper direction.

I hope to be able to send my Annual Report tomorrow or next-day. As soon as it is made up, the information required by Mr. King will be attended to. It requires investigation to which our Clerks have not yet been able to make.

Very respectfully &
truly yours,
R. M. Patterson.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
Jan. 18, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you herewith, a copy of my report to the President of the operations of the Mint and its Branches, for the past year.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Philadelphia Jany 18. 1850

The United States Mint

To Adams & Co. Dr.

For transportation of Foreign Gold from
New York $58.149.07 @ 37½ ¢ per $1.000 — $21.80

Payment received February 8 1850

Correct Geo. W. Edelman
Treas Off Clk

Adams & Co

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Jan. 21st 1850

ir,

I have it at length in my power to present, in the following State-
nts, the information applied for by the Hon. James G. King, and to
ich you asked my attention in your letter of the 11th inst. The tables
placed in the order of the questions proposed by Mr. King.

Query 1st

Amount coined annually, at the Mint & Branches, from 1845 to 1849, inclusive					
Mints & Periods		Gold	Silver	Copper	Entire Coinage
Philadelphia	1845	$2,574,652.50	$803,200	$38,948.04	$3,416,800.54
	1846	2,234,655	1,347,580	41,208	3,623,443.
	1847	13,296,080	990,450	61,836.69	14,348,366.69
	1848	2,780,930	420,050	64,157.99	3,265,137.99
	1849	7,948,332	922,950	41,984.32	8,913,266.32
	Total	$28,834,649.50	$4,484,230	$248,135.04	$33,567,014.54
New Orleans	1845	680,000	1,070,000	..	1,750,000.
	1846	1,272,800	1,211,000	..	2,483,800
	1847	6,085,000	1,384,000	..	7,469,000
	1848	358,500	1,620,000	..	1,978,500
	1849	454,000	1,192,000	..	1,646,000
	Total	8,850,300	6,477,000		15,327,300
Charlotte	1845	{suspended}	..	..	
	1846	76,995	..	..	76,995
	1847	478,820	..	..	478,820
	1848	364,330	..	..	364,330
	1849	361,299	..	..	361,299
	Total	1,281,444	..	..	1,281,444
Dahlonega	1845	501,795	..	..	501,795
	1846	449,727	..	..	449,727
	1847	361,485	..	..	361,485
	1848	271,752.50	..	..	271,752.50
	1849	244,130.50	..	..	244,130.50
	Total	1,828,890	..	..	1,828,890.
Aggregates		40,795,284.50	10,961,230	248,135.04	42,004,649.54

Query 2d

Expenses of the United States Mint, beyond Salaries, during the five past years.

Years	Contingencies	Wages	Salaries	Wastage	Total Expense	Expense beyond Salaries
1845	$10,382	$23,719	$19,200	$2,557	$55,858	$36,658
1846	12,203	23,289	19,200	5,153	59,845	40,645
1847	18,662	23,278	19,200	16,304	77,444	58,244
1848	15,385	22,533	18,308	5,712	61,938	43,630
1849	34,655	23,751	18,400	10,955	87,761	69,361
Total	$91,287	$116,570	$94,308	$40,681	$342,846	$248,538

Branch Mints

We have, in regard to the expenses of these Mints, no other information than may be derived from the appropriation bills. It is presumed that the expenses vary but slightly from these, which are as follows.

Appropriations for the New Orleans Mint

Fiscal years	Incidentals & Wastage	Wages	Salaries	Total Appropriatn	Expense beyond Sal
1844-45	$23,000	$18,000	$12,900	$53,900	$41,00
1845-46	23,000	19,000	12,900	54,900	42,00
1846-47	25,500	19,000	12,900	57,400	44,50
1847-48	22,100	19,000	12,900	54,000	41,10
1848-49	29,200	19,000	12,900	61,100	48,200
Total	$122,800	$94,000	$64,500	$281,300	$216,800

Appropriations to Charlotte Branch

cal years	Incidental & Wastage	Wages	Salaries	Total Appropriation	Expense beyond Salaries
44-45	$ 2,500	$ 3,500	$ 6,000	$ 12,000	$ 6,000
45-46	(suspended)	...	...	...	...
46-47	1,500	3,500	6,000	11,000	5,000
847-48	2,100	3,500	6,000	11,600	5,600
848-49	2,100	3,500	6,000	11,600	5,600
tal r years	$ 8,200	$ 14,000	$ 24,000	$ 46,200	$ 22,200

Appropriations to the Dahlonega Branch

844-5	$ 3,300	$ 4,320	$ 6,000	$ 13,620	$ 7,620
845-6	3,300	3,600	6,000	12,900	6,900
846-7	3,000	3,600	6,000	12,600	6,600
847-8	3,000	3,600	6000	12,600	6,600
848-9	2,500	3,600	6,000	12,100	6,100
tal	$ 15,100	$ 18,720	$ 30,000	$ 63,820	$ 33,820

Query 3d

Amount of deductions from depositors, including the value of Silver retained

At this Mint, the deductions accrued in the last five years are presented in the following statement, in which we also include the profits the sale of copper coins during the same period; the two items constituting the resources of the Mint, independent of Specific appropriations by Congress

Years	Deductions	Copper	Total
1845	$ 2,372	$ 9,231	$ 11,603
1846	2,820	10,234	13,054
1847	2,680	15,067	17,747
1848	4,945	15,323	20,268
1849	17,938	10,735	28,673
Total	$ 30,755	60,590	91,345

In regard to the Branch Mints, we can give no Satisfactory swer to this query. The deductions, however, are but small. In the "Grounds of Estimates" for the next fiscal year, at the New Orleans Branch, the Superintendent estimates their means, from deductions, at but $500. The large deposites of California gold will no doubt increase the amount of this estimate, yet probably it has not been exceeded by the deductions of the past years.

At the Dahlonega Branch, the deductions of the last year were but $78; and at the Charlotte Branch they were probably but little more.

Queries 4th & 5th

(The cost of the Several Mint Establishments) and of machinery in each.

For the answers to these questions, I refer to Congressional Document, H. R., 25th Congress, 2d Session, No. 273.

On the destruction of the Charlotte Branch Mint, by fi in 1844, appropriations were made for its re-establishment That for the building was $25,000; how much was expended I do not know. The actual expenses, under the appropriation for Machinery, were $5,472.97.

The expenses for Machinery, subsequent to the report referred to, cannot be stated with any accuracy. At this Mint, this machinery has been principally made within the building, by our own workmen.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury

Mint of the United States.
Philada. Jany. 22, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send you the enclosed papers and to respectfully ask your instructions whether the United States or myself as Treasurer of the Mint can be made a garnishee and withhold payment from the depositor or the person who may present the certificate of deposite properly endorsed. It will be a source of great inconvenience to the Mint if the affirmative of this proposition is sustained.

The deposite referred to was made December 15, 1849, by Clarkson E. Taylor, No. 2317, oz. 149$\frac{70}{100}$.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt. servt.

James Ross Snowden
Treasurer.

Hon.ble Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

States Mint in Philadelphia in December last, by Augustus F Taylor, in the name of Clarkson E Taylor of the City of New Brunswick, New Jersey, the said Gold being the property of the said company and of individual Members of the same.

The said company was organised in the City of New Brunswick N.J. in January 1849, of which Augustus F Taylor was President and Physician, and John W Van Middlesworth Treasurer of the said Company. The Company sailed from New York in the Bark Isabel, the 7th day of February 1849, and arrived in California in the early part of August last. The said Augustus F Taylor, and John W Van Middlesworth as aforesaid, accompanied said Company to California; The said A F Taylor contributed nothing on account of said Company, but was to have One Share of the proceeds for his Services as Physician. The said Company was to endure for two years as understood when leaving the port of New York. In about two Months after the arrival of said Company in California, the Cargo of said vessel and company was disposed of, and the said John W Van Middlesworth the Treasurer of the said Company, and the said Augustus F Taylor, started about the Middle of October last on their return to the State of New Jersey. They took passage at Sacramento City, on board the Schooner Samuel Roberts for San Francisco. When he embarked at Sacramento, on board said Schooner, the said Van

Middlesworth, had in his possession, as Treasurer of the said Company, a considerable quantity of Gold in dust and coin; being proceeds of the said Cargo and belonging to the said Company, and which he was bringing with him to the State of New Jersey. After their embarkation as aforesaid, the said Augustus F Taylor applied to one of the proprietors of the said Schooner, who was on board, for permission to deposit a Valise, which he said contained the monies of the said John W van Middlesworth the Treasurer of said Company, in the Captain's Locker or Closet, where the monies of the said vessel were kept. The said Valise was accordingly deposited in the Captain's Locker or Closet – After the said Valise was so deposited, and while on their passage to San Francisco, the said John W van Middlesworth died very suddenly and unexpectedly – Soon after his decease the said Augustus F Taylor removed the said Valise from the Captain's locker or Closet, and took it into his possession. He was seen in the Cabin of the said schooner, with the Valise open; He took out divers parcels or packets, containing Gold in dust and coin, and emptied the said parcels, and threw their contents into one collection. He did this by himself and without calling any witness to see him open the Valise or examine its contents – It has also been ascertained that several persons, members of said Company, had intrusted the said Treasurer John W van Middlesworth with pack-

Middlesworth, had in his possession, as Treasurer of
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persons, members of said Company, had intrusted the
said Treasurer John W. Van Middlesworth with pack-

ages of Gold dust to deliver to their families, and which
packages are unaccounted for, and are believed to be
included in the deposit made in the Mint as aforesaid.
He has never rendered, though frequently requested so
to do, any satisfactory account of the contents of said

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persons, members of said Company, had intrusted the
said Treasurer John W Van Middlesworth with pack-

The subscribers members of the New Brunswick and Califor-
nia Mining and Trading Company, claim in behalf of
said company, 149 ounces and seventy parts of an
ounce of California Gold, deposited in the United

valise, or the amount of monies in his possession belonging to the said Company. The said Augustus F. Taylor having in this manner obtained possession of the monies of the said Company, he brought them to the State of New Jersey, and has recently deposited them in the United States Mint in Philadelphia, in the name of Clarkson E. Taylor his brother. Soon after the arrival of said Company in California, the said Augustus F. Taylor was taken sick, and has continued unwell ever since, and earned little or nothing. He has expended he says, in returning home $700 and since his return to New Jersey, has been paid by other members $300, which he lent them to get home, the greater part of which is the property of the company, as well as the amount deposited in the Mint as aforesaid. The monies thus deposited, the said Company claims to be the property of the said Company, and unless the withdrawal of the said monies from the said Mint can be prevented, they will be lost to the said Company as both the said Augustus F. Taylor, and the said Clarkson E. Taylor, are irresponsible and without property -

State of New Jersey }
Middlesex County } ss

Before me, the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared, William Dunham, John Johnson, Harvey Wiley and George Ackerman who being by me duly sworn upon their oaths, respectively say, that the facts set forth in the foregoing statement are true to the best of their knowledge and belief –

Wm Dunham
John Johnson
Harvey Wiley
Geo. Ackerman

Sworn and subscribed the
18th day of January 1850 before me
Peter P Runyon
Justice of the Peace

Copy

Philada. Jany 19. 1850

Sir

In behalf of the claimants I respectfully notify you that one hundred and forty nine ounces and seventy parts of an ounce of California Gold deposited in the United States Mint in this city in December last by Augustus F. Taylor in the name of Clarkson E. Taylor of the city of New Brunswick, New Jersey, is the property of the New Brunswick and California Mining and Trading Company, and of individual members of the same, and that neither of the said parties, the said Augustus F. and Clarkson E. Taylor has any property therein.

You are therefore notified not to deliver the said Gold or its product in coin or otherwise to either or both of the said Taylors, the poſseſsion of the same having been illegally and fraudulently obtained

Respectfully – Yr. Obt. Servt –
(Signed) James Page
Att. for claimants –
No. 101 Walnut St.

Col. J. R. Snowden
As. T. U. S.

Copy

Dear Col

I send you as I promised, a copy of the affidavit touching ~~touching~~ the gold my clients claim. Have you any objection to let me have a copy of the record shewing the aſsay, number, value etc. It is clear a great wrong has been committed as to this gold.

Yrs truly
Signed J. Page

Recd. 22d. Jany. 1850, and addreſs to
Col. J. R. Snowden
Treasurer.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia.
Jan. 23, 1850.

Dear Sir,

I send herewith an official letter to ask that the President will appoint, for the approaching Annual Assay, the Commissioners whom he is authorized to designate, in addition to the Commissioners *ex officio*, — viz. the District Judge, the District Attorney, and the Collector of the Port.

I hope I may be excused for following the practice heretofore observed by the Director of the Mint, of respectfully suggesting to the President, through the Secretary of the Treasury, the names of individuals deemed proper to be selected for the occasion. I accordingly offer the following to his consideration.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
Jan. 23, 1850.

Sir,

The Annual Assay at the Mint is to be held on the 11th day of next month, and I have the honor respectfully to request that you will ask the attention of the President to the appointment of the additional Commissioners provided for by the 32d Section of the Act of Jan. 18, 1837.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
Jan. 30, 1850.

Sir,

I regret to send you the enclosed letter from the Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll, in which he states that it is not in his power to accept the appointment of Assay Commissioner. Although the law does not name the number of Extra Commissioners, it has been customary to appoint three, in addition to the three Ex-Officio. Let me then express the hope that the President will designate some one to supply the place of Mr. Ingersoll.

Mr. Wetherill accepts his appointment. From President King I have not yet heard.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Philadelphia January 29th 1850.

Sir

It is so probable that I shall be out of town on the 11th February that I should be unwilling to run the risk of failure in attendance at the Mint at the time and for the purpose named in your communication of this date. I do not delay therefore to reply (agreeably to your request) and to inform you that it is not in my power to accept the appointment.

With great respect
Yr faithful servant
J R Ingersoll

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Feb. 12, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Annual Assay was held at the Mint yesterday, when the following commissioners were in attendance.

Hon. J. K. Kane, District Judge, U. S. John W. Ashmead, Esq. District Attorney William D. Lewis, Collector of the Port	Commissioners, ex officio
John Price Wetherill, Esq. Henry M. Watts, Esq.	Special Commissioners

Prof. Hitchcock, who had been designated as one of the pecial commissioners, was not present. I presume his appointment did not reach him in time to admit of his attendance, ut I have not yet heard from him.

On the following page will be found a table presenting he results of the trials made by the Commissioners. These eing quite satisfactory, the Commissioners concluded their roceedings by a resolution "that the examination of the gold nd silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches, in e year 1849, is in their judgment sufficient; and there appearing no greater deviation from the standard fineness and ight than is allowed by law, the trial is considered and reorted as satisfactory.

The Commissioners also reported "that they had tested the accuracy of the weights ordinarily employed in the Mint, by comparing them with the Series of Standard weights kept for that purpose, and that the correspondence was found to be in every instance Satisfactory."

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec'y of the Treasury
Washington.

Table exhibiting the results of the trial of the gold and silver coins reserved at the Mint and its Branches, in the year 1849.

Mints.	Kind of metal, & its form when tried	Standard weight.	Weight by trial.	Fineness by trial.
		Ounces	Ounces	Thousandths
Philadelphia	Gold coins reserved $6,634	356.577	356.680	
	3 eagles, 3 ½ eagles, 3 ¼ eagles, 3 dollars	2.983	2.983	
	Silver coins reserved $102.05	87.699	87.900	
	3 dollars, 3 ½ dollars, 3 ¼ dollars; 3 dimes, 3 ½ dimes	4.908	4.902	
	Bar from melt of gold coins			900.2
	do silver do			900.9
New Orleans	Gold coins reserved $455	24.456	24.465	
	3 eagles, 3 dollars	1.774	1.774	
	Silver coins reserved $238.90	205.305	205.300	
	3 ½ dollars, 3 dimes, 3 ½ dimes	1.676	1.676	
	Bar from melt of gold coins			900.3
	do silver do			899.6
Charlotte	Gold coins reserved $448	24.080	24.084	
	3 ½ eagles, 3 ¼ eagles, 3 dollars	1.371	1.371	
	Bar from melt of gold coins			899.9
Dahlonega	Gold coins reserved $552.50	29.697	29.697	
	3 ½ eagles, 3 ¼ eagles, 3 dollars	1.371	1.369	
	Bar from melt of gold coins.			899.9

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia Feb. 14, 1850

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday.

With regard to the Assays of Silver and gold coins made current by the acts of 25th June 1834, and March 3, 1843, I have to state that this duty had not been forgotten; The work was referred to the Assayers, and it is nearly finished.

With regard to the desire of the Treasurer of the United States for a large portion of half-eagles, in payment of a draft upon the Assistant Treasury here, which will probably be made about the close of the present month, I have to state that a delivery was made, this morning, by the Chief Coiner, of $65,000 in half eagles which have been transferred to the Assistant Treasury, and that measures are taken for striking an additional number of these coins.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Sec'y of the Treasury

P. S. In the week beginning Feb. 8, we have received, of California gold, an amount fairly estimated at $1,500,000; and it is still coming.

Mint of the U. S. Philada. Feb. 18th. 1850

Dear Sir

You could have conferred no privilege I value more at this moment, than the authority I received from you, to make a frank and full statement to you personally of the matters I conceive affecting my official place under your department.

I intend to be as brief as perspicuity and justice to myself will permit; but should I possibly exceed the limits you may have anticipated, I must only entreat your patience.

Since I saw you it has occurred to me, that I may have so expressed myself as to lead to a thought that I desired to shrink from the responsibility of my own statements, otherwise than in a confidential form; I assure you that I have no such purpose: while I wish to obtrude myself no farther on your attention, than is strictly necessary for my own vindication — the facts I may furnish are at your service for any object required by the public welfare.

About a year ago when the Act of Congress adding two new denominations to the gold coinage, was the subject of discussion: I was informed by a gentleman in the Mint; that he feared measures would be taken thereto, prejudicial to my position; intimating that a purpose existed on the part of another officer to have the *dies* executed elsewhere and by some other hand than mine. Knowing the law designating my duties, I immediately waited on the Director, and apprized him that I was ready to commence the work — He assented to my suggestion, and requested me to commence making a model in wax for the *head*: which I accordingly executed; and subsequently engraved the dies for the Gold Dollar: The engraving was unusually minute, and required very close and incessant labour for several weeks; I made the *original dies*, and the *hubs* for making the *working dies* twice over, to secure their perfect adaptation to the coining machinery. I had a wish to execute this work *single handed*; that I might thus silently reply to those who had questioned my ability for the work. The result I believe was satisfactory — but I then found I had tasked myself too severely for my health; and knowing that my labour would nesecessarily be increased with that which was to follow: I took occasion to say to the Director, in the month of May last; that my department was not strong enough for such an emergency: as it rested with him legally and properly to order such assistance as I might require; I was surprized to find that he objected to making any addition to the force of my department, by the employment of any person to assist me: saying, that for that matter he saw no objection to having the engraving done out of the Mint. That it might be done by contract as it was in France: That if it could not be done in this City, it might be done in any other part of the country, or even in Europe: This remark closed my lips against any further application for aid: The law required that *I* as the proper officer should "engrave all the dies" for the Mint: and left it to the discretion of the Director, as to what assistance should be given me; I could not direct or control any work done out of the Mint, or by contract, I was not so empowered. In consequence, I proceeded as well as I was able with the work

necessary to produce the *dies* for the *Double Eagle*. I made a
sign and model for the *reverse*: The plan of operation sele
for me, was to have an *electrotype mould* made from my mo
in copper, to serve as a pattern for a cast in iron; The operat
of the galvanic battery for this purpose were conducted in the
partments of the chief coiner — The galvanic process failed;
model was destroyed, in the operation — I had however take
the precaution to make a cast in plaster from my model pr
vious to subjecting it to the action of the galvanic battery; f
this cast, as the only alternative, I procured a metallic one
which however was not perfect, but I thought I should be able
correct the imperfections in the *engraving* of the die, with
more economy of time, than in making a new model. This
a laborious task but was seasonably completed entirely by my o
hand — the *die* had then to be hardened in the coining depa
ment, it unluckily split in the process; I had then to go to w
with depressed spirits to overcome this unexpected misfortu
to my work; when I had got through this; the original d
was still to be finished for the *head*: and all the *hubs*
be made — for all this, no assistance was yet provided f
me, nor was it untill late in October that I received auth
to procure it; I had then to look for some one qualified for
work and at liberty to undertake it — Through the good offic
of my friend Mr. Wright of New York, I was, in November la
enabled to obtained the services of a young man, whom he had inst
ted, and who has rendered me valuable aid — But the days h
now become short and dark, and the light of my only room
the Mint, rendered more obscure very frequently by the smoke
the Steam Engines and of the melting and refining furnaces. The di
were finished and struck in December; but I then perceived, that
I had overrated the power of the coining press used for striking,
making the *relief* of the *head* too high to come up full under the p
sure that was employed — To accommodate the relief to the pow
of the press, I found it necessary to work over the face again.
This was not the most certain or agreeable course to me, but
adopted it to save time. On the 12th of January last I was rea
for another trial; but I found no material in readiness
gold prepared in the coining department, where the trial ha
be made. This was a delay over which I had no control;
and it was not untill the 26th of the same month, that I
could obtain the second trial. The impressions taken were
objected to by the chief coiner, as still not *coming* up suffi-
ciently under the pressure applied; I wished to make the
dies perfectly adapted to the power of the press used in
coining (I saw no other defect than a slight want of fullness in
the centre of the piece) and only regretted the additional delay
that must ensue; I asked this officer for one of the gold pieces
then struck, to guide me intelligently in the very delicate operations
yet required; he declined on the ground of difficulty in his accounts.
I offered to deposit the value from my own pocket, with no other
view than to facilitate the public issue of the coin; he still
declined absolutely and on any terms to allow me the temporary
use of one of these pieces for my purpose: I asked him what

he expected me to do under such circumstances — with some hesitation he observed that I might have an impression taken in silver: This alternative, though not satisfactory, nor even safe to me, I was constrained to accept. The piece I had the opportunity of shewing you on the 13th inst. was the one then obtained; by which you may form a tolerable judgement of the state of the dies from which it was taken —

The facts just stated were communicated to the Director; but I am not advised of any interposition more favourable to my views, by him —

In the operations of the Royal Mint of Great Britain, and I believe in most others, the right to decide upon the fitness of the dies for coining, rests with the engraver, whose reputation is chiefly concerned; but a different order seems to be established here.

The impressions taken from my dies at the trial last mentioned appeared to me equal to those of most of the coins in previous use: I regret that the unpleasant circumstance to which I have adverted, deprived me of the satisfaction of submitting one to your inspection.

Under a fair trial I have no fears for the fitness of the dies I have now on hand and nearly ready; being the third pair furnished for the same coin —

Untill very recently I have proved myself equal to all the work of the Mint put upon me, unaided. I asked for no help untill I thought myself overtasked: I have never hesitated to undertake, nor intentionally delayed any labour pertaining to my office.

The law providing for the office of "Engraver of the Mint" makes no allusion to that primitive branch of the art called die-sinking: and the omission appears to me judicious: For these reasons, the mere die-sinker in this country at least is rarely an educated artist: and the work to be done in *intaglio*, which is what is understood by die-sinking; forms but a minor part of the duties of the office, the work required in *cameo*, being equally artistic and more laborious: and in fact the Engraver of the Mint, to discharge his duties intelligently, should be a designer and modeller; and possess a general knowledge of numismatics and heraldry. On my first introduction to the office I was officially informed, that the most important qualification was modelling — and I believe I have not much cause to fear competition in this branch of the art.

If excellence in one branch of artistic skill, necessarily implied a disqualification for every other, there would be force in the objection raised against the early training of my hand: but experience contradicts such a supposition: the history of art from the times of Da Vinci, Angelo and Cellini to the present, is full of examples of eminent success on the part of men who have passed at will from the pencil to the graver, or the chizel and vice versa. Sevier, still living I believe, whose statues of "Christ on the Cross" and "Musidora" are among the finest specimens in his own "Sculpture Illustrations," was like myself a portrait engraver; and his truly magnificent portrait of Lord Ellenborough in Judicial costume, after Sir T. Lawrence will I

hope, sufficiently remind you of his excellence in that line. In
this country it is worthy of remark that the men who have she
the most superior skill as medallists, have been brought up
to different pursuits. Gobrecht was a watchmaker, and
Wright of New York a silver smith —

There is a peculiar difficulty to be met, in engraving for the
coinage of the Mint, unknown to the mere medallist or die-sinker;
consisting in the very limited power of the press used in striking
coin; the extent of which can only be ascertained by very carefu
and repeated trials of the work, on every change in the diamete
of the piece to be struck: The utmost elevation of the relief of wh
it seems capable in the present instance on either die is less th
the one hundredth part of an inch; consequently it is within this
limit the whole power and skill of the artist must be employed.

A more detailed and technical account of the various obstacle
I have encountered, would present my position more strongly,
were I writing to a professional artist — But I must spare yo
the recital, lest I weary you —

I have been restrained heretofore by a sense of official etiquett
from communicating with the proper executive authority, on th
want of facilities, (that under other circumstances would be con
sidered indispensable,) for the labours required of me under e
isting arrangements. If the representations I have made
suggest any inquiries that I have not fully met; I am rea
to answer them at the first intimation from you, in such
manner as may appear most desirable —

Allow me to close with a more agreeable reminiscence, that h
been called up by the circumstances in which I so unexpectedly fi
myself. One of the most agreeable of my early works, was the
portrait of Governeur Morris, at which time I was honoured wi
the friendship of your father — This incident has caused me to feel
a peculiar interest in your public career: And as the patriotic
devotion of the Decii was hereditary, and as I remember, the
daughter of Scipio Africanus was the mother of the Gracchi —
my belief in the genealogy of public virtue; persuades me, I sha
not be made the victim of misrepresentation, while my fat
is in the hands of the officer I have now the honour to subs

With estimation and respect
the most sincere

James B. Longacre
Engraver of the Mint

Hon. W. M. Meredith

Secretary of the Treasury

Mint U.S. Phila. Feb 18
Jams B. Longacre
Engraver
resp.g the performan
of his duty &c

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, Feb. 22, 1850

Sir,

In a communication which I had the honor of addressing to you on the 22d of May last, I proposed the tariff of charges of which a printed copy is enclosed, and which received your approval on the 29th of the same month. Our experience has proved that this tariff requires amendment; and that the charges for "separating the gold + silver" do not meet "the actual expense to the Mint of the materials and labor employed" in the operation, as the law requires. I propose, therefore, for your approval, that the tariff shall be altered, so as to admit the following charges.

Approved Wm M Meredith 23 Feb

V. "For separating the gold & silver when these metals exist together in the bullion."

1. If not coppery

Proportion	of gold	1	to	200	thous.	1½ cts	per oz. gross	after melting
"	"	201	"	600	"	2	"	"
"	"	601	"	700	"	3	"	"
"	"	701	"	800	"	4	"	"
"	"	801	"	935	"	5	"	"

The change I propose is based ~~is based~~ on the actual expenses to which we are subjected from the necessity of parting bullion, and these the law requires that we should charge to the depositor. Its effect will be principally felt by the depositors of California gold, in which by far the largest amount of our partible bullion consists. The increased charge to which they will be subjected is, however, very inconsiderable, — about $\frac{1}{9}$th of one per cent.

When I proposed for your approval the tariff rate which I am now desirous to amend, we anticipated that the low rate of our parting charge would draw to the Mint a very considerable quantity of the goldish silver of Mexico. Had this been the case our present tariff would have been quite sufficient to pay our expenses. For in our parting operations upon silvery gold we find it necessary, as a preliminary step, to mix with it a large portion of silver. For this silver we are now obliged to have recourse principally to that portion of the bullion fund which is in that metal. Had we any large proportion of goldish silver, however, this last might have been mixed with the silvery gold, and the two parted with the same expense that is now required for, and paid by, the gold alone. Should the kind of bullion referred to be hereafter brought to the Mint in considerable quantity, a reduction of the parting charge, which I now propose, will be authorised.

I suggest that the change in our tariff, which I have indicated, shall, with your approval, go into effect on the 1st of March.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec. of the Treasury

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
Feb. 23, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send enclosed a Statement of Deposites and Coinage, at the Mint and its Branches, in the month of January, 1850.

The deposites of California gold, during that Month, were, at the Philadelphia Mint, $987,322.22
at the New-Orleans Mint — — 376,511.96
Total 1,363,834.18

The amount of California Gold deposited at the Philadelphia Mint, from February 1 to 22 inclusive, is estimated at $1,850,000.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
Feb. 26, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to ask your attention to the enclosed letter from the Chief Coiner of the Mint. The necessity of replacing the old boilers of our large engine is imperative, and it offers an opportunity of reforming the whole arrangement of that part of the Mint, of which we are anxious to take advantage. The changes proposed by Mr. Peale are the results of full reflection and consultation, and I believe that they would, if carried into execution, be a great benefit to the Mint. I beg leave therefore to ask, with your consent, for an appropriation of $20,800, for this object. The sum required is founded on estimates carefully presented by Mr. Peale, and sent herewith.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia Jan. 16th 1850.

Sir,

You are aware that the condition of the boilers of the large engine has been a subject of anxiety for a long time. In use since the year 1832, they are consequently 17 years old, and subject to a pressure of 152 lbs to the inch. They have frequently been repaired, by patching and otherwise, and since the employment of steam, generated by them, in the Refinery, are incapable of supplying a sufficient amount to keep both departments in operation at the same time. Under these circumstances it has become a duty to state that new boilers are absolutely necessary.

As it would be bad policy to continue to use steam at so high a pressure, and as the position which these boilers have hitherto occupied is excessively injurious, to the machinery, building, and workmen, I respectfully suggest that measures be taken to procure a new set, arranged so as to supply the place of the three sets now in use, the whole to be under one general superintendence, thereby reducing labor and expense.

To the foregoing I beg leave to add, that the noxious vapors from the parting process render our establishment, to say the least, offensive to the neighborhood. To carry these away more effectually, to give a better draft, and to increase our safety from fire, and protection to the health of the workmen, I recommend that a large and high central flue be erected, into which all requisite flues be carried.

For the purpose of procuring additional space for the Refinery, which is now exceedingly cramped, adding to our effective power, reducing manual labor, and for the better oversight and control of the rolling and cutting departments, it is recommended that the place of the larger engine be changed. The engine itself being scarcely able, at this time, to do the work required of it, and entirely insufficient under the contemplated reduced pressure, and finally, the bad constitution and inefficiency of the Housings and Rolls, require that this System should be changed.

These are a few of the facts, briefly stated, which require attention in the present condition of the Mint. The increasing duties and labors of the establishment demand an active consideration of means of meeting the exigency. I therefore present, herewith, designs of parts of the premises, with the desired additions and changes, together with estimates of the cost of their execution.

The sale of the old boilers and engine will reduce, to some extent, the cost of the whole improvement; but as the amount cannot be ascertained until they are sold, it has not been considered in the estimate.

All these matters have been carefully considered and digested, and are now presented under the conviction of their necessity, and that they will remove, by their execution, all the embarrassment under which we are now laboring.

I have the honor to be,
your obdt Servt
(Signed) Franklin Peale
Chief Coiner

Dr. R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Estimate in accordance with designs for new Boilers, and flue for vapors, &c. &c. Mint of the United States Jan. 16th. 1850

Chimney to carry off deleterious fumes &c.	$1,200.
Buildings in Court, for boilers &c.	2,500.
Engine (finished)	6,000.
Boilers for two engines & supply of steam	1,500
Setting of boilers	1,200
Three pair of Berlin cast steel rolls	3,600
Three pair of housings	3,000
Running gear	300
Contingencies	1,500
	$20,800.

(signed)

Franklin Peale

Chief Coiner

Mint of the United States

Jan. 16, 1850

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Feb. 26, 1850.

Dear Sir,

This letter will be taken to you by Col. Jas. Ross Snowden, the Treasurer of the Mint. He goes to Washington for the purpose of laying before you the present pecuniary difficulties of the Mint, and of consulting you with regard to them. He takes with him, also, a communication regarding important changes required in Mr. Peale's department, and for which we desire a separate appropriation.

I write in full confidence that you will aid us in any measures that may relieve us from our present troubles, and increase our means of ~~[illegible]~~ expediting and improving the operations of the Mint.

Very respectfully &
truly yours,
R. M. Patterson.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir,

In consequence of the change in the number of Clerks, the appropriation for the fiscal year 1850-51, should provide for the salaries of
4 clerks - $1200 = $4,800.
(See the various letter on this subject, and which authorized an additional clerk.)

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Y. Obt. St.
James Ross Snowden
Treasurer.

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Sec. Treasy.

Feby 28. 1850.

From Treas. U.S. Mint
to Sec. of the Treasury

Sir,

In compliance with your suggestion, I have the honor to present the following brief statement of the wants of the Mint.

An immediate appropriation is desirable,

First. To supply the deficit in the present fiscal year $12.000 – (See Letter of the Director Jany 28. 1850)

Second. To supply new boilers &c $ 20.800.00 (See letter of Dr. P. Feby 26. 1850. & the report and estimate of Mr. Peale Chief Coiner, enclosed.)

The bill which passed the house on the subject of increasing Bullion fund is not in a satisfactory form. It ought to be amended in the Senate by inserting the bill enclosed in Dr. Patterson's letter of the 26. Jany. The second section is necessary for the Branch mint at New Orleans.

The above are of immediate and pressing importance. I have the honor to be

Feby 28. 1850. with great respect

yr. ob. st.

James Ross Snowden

Treas. U.S. Mint.

The Hon.
W. M. Meredith
Secretary of the Treasury

Remitted on 2d March 1850

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, March 2d, 1850.

Sir,

On the 20th ult., I had the honor of asking your Warrant, in favor of the Treasurer of the Mint, for two thousand dollars, out of the appropriation for paying the wages of Workmen. This requisition has not yet been honored, and as this puts us to serious inconvenience, I take the liberty of asking your attention to it.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the U. S. Philad.a March 1. 1850

Dear Sir

It is not willingly that I trespass again upon your valuable moments, but feeling as if every thing in the present life to me, depends upon my character and reputation as an artist, I am anxious to place myself before you in such a light as to secure a just appreciation of my work in the office I occupy —

With no other purpose I have transmitted and placed in the hands of a friend, the Hon. H. D. Moore of the House of Representatives; the metallic cast to which I referred in my statement of the 18th ult. as a transcript of my model for the reverse of the Double Eagle. I wish you to see it, because on the coin, owing to the low relief and diminished scale on which I have had to produce it; the merit of the design does not so well appear. I have requested Mr. Moore to place it in your hands if desired. My object being to enable you to judge for yourself how far my labour is deprived of its proper estimate by the intervention of the mechanical forces to which it is subjected, before it is allowed to meet the public eye.

My work on the last pair of original dies for the Double Eagle being completed, I enclose you impressions from them taken by the hand alone in fusible metal — An imperfect method of shewing my work; but the only one at my command for the present purpose: (the diameter of the coin on the head is not entire, the outer rim breaking off in the process — the material being very friable as well as fusible:) they will serve to shew the present relief of the dies, which I believe from a trial just made, is within the power of the press designed to strike them — at least the test afforded me in Silver is satisfactory to me.

The entire design, arrangement and execution are my own — the artistic proportions of the head are from the antique, and will be found to correspond very nearly with those of the Venus Accroupie, a favourite standard — The classic authority for the accessories as "emblematic of Liberty" (a requirement of the law) can be found in Goltzius' numismatic history of Julius Caesar &c. in the table inscribed — Libertas Reipublicae Restituta, containing the coins of Brutus & Cassius.

The reverse is conformed to the heraldic language of the act of Congress of June 20. 1782 determining the Arms of the United States — in which I have availed myself of the "scroll" for the motto (E. Pluribus Unum) to give a more ornamental and symmetrical arrangement of the armorial achievement, than has been previously attempted on our coinage, without any infraction of the laws of heraldry: the form adopted, of a double scroll, united over the Shield is intended to allude to the title of the coin —

I so frequently heard, amongst gentlemen of taste, strictures on the want of relief on our current coin, that I had long since resolved, whenever an opportunity should be given me, of making a model for a new denomination, I would attempt a bolder relief: I thought the present occasion favourable; but had I foreseen the difficulty into which it has brought me, by the conflicting tendencies of the coining apparatus: a regard to my own safety would have counselled me differently. Yet after all,

the point on which I most fear to meet the public scru
on this very piece, is the *flatness* of the reverse, to wh
I have been driven to accommodate the coining pres

With the highest respect
I remain Your most
Ob.t Serv.t &c.

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Secretary of the Treasury

James B. Longacre

Dear Sir

It
18th ult. might
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(Mr. Calhoun) I
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ly to understand,

Philada. March 2d. 1851   82c

Dear Sir

It has occurred to me that my statement of the 18th. ult. might appear defective in making no allusion to any sufficient cause for the impediments of which I had to speak. I felt the difficulty, rather the delicacy of attempting to account for a state of things, that was not easy to be explained without bearing unfavourably upon the deportment of other parties — towards myself — a thing I do not wish to do, while any other construction is possible: and because I may be mistaken in my own impressions: Yet it appears to me I ought not to suppress a consideration, that has dwelt upon my own mind and on which you can fix an unprejudiced estimate if I have given it too much importance.

Some time after the Office I now hold became vacant by the decease of Mr. Gobrecht in 1844: I was urged by a friend who knew my circumstances, and whose pursuits had been in the same line as my own: to take some steps to have my name presented as a candidate for the appointment: I objected, at first on the ground of ~~the~~ absence of any political claims to consideration — that with the exception of the then Secretary of State (Mr. Calhoun) I was almost personally unknown to the members of the Cabinet — He overruled my hesitation by saying in a manner more complimentary than I thought correct: that my qualifications were not surpassed by any expectant of the office: and that my standing as an artist before the Country gave me superior claims — and farther, that I could have no friend more to be relied upon than the Secretary of State — Through this persuasion I was induced to speak of the subject to Mr. Calhoun. who with a magnanimity I delight to honour, gave me pleasantly to understand, that political considerations, would not be regarded so far as his influence was concerned: which would be affected only by a consideration of the highest qualifications: That the appointment however belonged to the Treasury Department (of the I was aware) but that it would afford him pleasure to lay my testimonials before the Secretary of the Treasury: for these I relied chiefly upon my brother Artists who had known for years: I was favourably considered — But I have some reason to fear that an inadvertance in not having first sought and obtained the recommendation of the Director has been disadvantageous to me: I did not perceive my error untill too late — and how far it may have influenced the apparent diminution of comfort and consideration that my office has received, I cannot safely presume. I have made no complaint; but have found it impossible to resist altogether the impression, that the facilities which have been denied to me, have not been withheld from other officers.

The birds that I had (with too much confidence perhaps) expected to display their plumage in the atelier of the engraver, have flown over my head, preferring it would seem the more spacious ~~of~~ apartments of the chief coiner, to be caged in — Excuse the enigma, I wish to convey the idea without going into detail.

In other respects and with the other officers my relations and intercourse have been as agreeable as I had any reason to expect.

The subject of this note will I hope be a sufficient excuse for marking it as I have —

With the most perfect respect
I remain Your Obt. Servt. &c

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Secretary of the Treasury

James B. Longacre

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, March 4, 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d inst., in which you ask our judgment at the Mint regarding a suspected gold-dollar coinage. The piece which you sent has been carefully examined, and it proves, without doubt, to be a legitimate coin. In the first gold-dollars struck, the wreath on the reverse was shorter than those subsequently coined, and this circumstance has probably given rise to the suspicion. The mark upon the obverse has been made with solder, probably with the purpose of attaching an eye to it, so as to use it as a button.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
5 March 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ulto, in which you refer to the accumulation of silver bullion at the Charlotte Branch Mint, and ask if it can be made available for the contingent expenses of that Branch, in any other way than by the transfer of the bullion to Philadelphia for coinage. It appears to me that such a course is the only one open for adoption. Such transfers have already several times been made, in consequence of my instructions.

I take this occasion to refer you to a communication addressed by me, on the 9th July 1842, to Tully R. Wise, 1st Auditor, relating generally to the manner of accounting at the Charlotte Branch Mint, and with particular reference to the disposal of silver accumulated from the process of parting.

Very respectfully
your faithful servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Sec. of the Treasury.

New York, March 6th 1850.

The Honble Wm M. Meredith
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Sir,

On the 26th and 27th of June last we deposited in the mint of the United States at Philadelphia upwards of One Hundred and twenty thousand dollars worth of California Gold, for the purpose of being assayed and Coined. A day or two afterwards we became aware of a new Tariff of prices for assaying Bullion having been established, to take effect on the 1st day of July following, which was more favorable to Depositors than the one previously in force. We called the attention of the Director of the mint to this circumstance, and requested to be informed whether we would participate in the benefits of the new tariff but he seemed to consider that he was not authorised to deviate from the *literal* terms of the Treasury instructions on the subject.

It appears to us that as the simple deposite of the Gold merely, was made previous to the 1st of July, and as the actual assay did not take place until sometime after the 1st, and the proceeds only paid to us on the 16th and 17th of July, it could not be the intention of the Government to cut off Parties placed under such Circumstances from coming within the spirit of the order fixing the new Tariff, particularly when the usual previous notice of the alteration was not given

We therefore respectfully request you to Consider the matter, and hope that as the assay of our Gold was made while the new tariff was in operation, you will see the propriety of ordering the charges for assaying it, to be made in Conformi with that tariff.

We have the honor to be
Sir
Your mo. obt. Servts.
Howland & Aspinwall

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia March 11, 1850

Sir,

In a letter of the 8th inst, you sent me a communication from Messrs. Howland & Aspinwall +), and you do me the honor of "submitting it for my perusal nd report."

On the 26th & 27th of June last, there was depos- ted at the Mint, from that firm, a considerable am- unt of California gold. All this gold required part- ing, and for this operation a charge was made accord- ing to a tariff of long standing. It had been de- rmined, however, that this tariff should be changed, nd the charges reduced, from the 1st of July follow- ing. In a letter from Mr. John L. Aspinwall, of the th of July he called my attention to the loss that the ouse sustained by their making the deposite before

6. Marde

the day when the new tariff went into operation, and of which they were not acquainted in time. My answer was as follows:

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and after again considering the case which you present, I cannot see any practicable course by which deposites made and registered before 1st. of July can be placed under the conditions of a tariff which did not go into effect until that date."

I still see no possibility of varying, justly and legally from this conclusion. I may add, however, some other reasons that would make a change in the case impracticable.

If the principle of Messrs. Howland & Aspinwall were adopted, all others who came within it should share the benefit. We find that this would include 35 depositors, with sums to the amount of $359,000 requiring to be re-adjusted and repaid. Nor would this be the end of the claim. If deposites of the 26th of June are passed, why not those of the 25th, 24th &c. Depositors would hardly consent that the limit should be established for the benefit of a single depositor.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson
Director

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, March 12, 1850.

Sir,

The first coinage of Double-eagles has been executed this day, and I send two of them, for the President and yourself.

They have been struck with all the force that could be used, — even to such a degree as to injure the dies, — and yet the impression is not perfect. The face is still too much in relief.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

P.S. It has been thought best to send the coins by Adams & Co's Express Line.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 14 March 1850.

Sir,

I have received, this morning, from Mr. Kennedy, Superintendent of the Branch Mint, at New Orleans, a letter transmitting a copy of a communication from Mr. Macmurdo, also sent to you, in which he says that he cannot retain his Office as Treasurer, longer than the 31st inst. His withdrawal, without a Successor to take his place, would necessarily arrest the business of the Mint.

In connexion with this subject Mr. Kennedy has laid before me the following questions :- "Can Mr. Macmurdo continue to act as Treasurer alone, until his successor shall be qualified? - If not, can his successor, after giving bond as Treasurer, in $10,000, act as such alone, until the approval of that which he is required to give as Assistant Treasurer?"

It is not within my official powers to decide these questions, and I therefore respectfully refer them to you.

Mr. J. J. Wickes, who has been for many years a Clerk in the New Orleans Mint, has sent a letter to me in which he informs me that he has made application to the President for the place about to be vacated. Mr. Kennedy also refers to this application, but he says nothing of Mr. Wickes' qualifications. I regret this very much, but I am not surprised at it, as Mr. Kennedy has always been cautiously non-committal.

Very respectfully,
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec'y of the Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, 16 Mar. 1850

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst, in which you submit for my examination and remark a memorial from the Officers of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in relation to the depressed condition of that mint, and the proper means for its improvement.

I have postponed answering your communication in the hope of receiving, from the Superintendent of that mint, answers to certain queries, propounded to him some time since, and designed to obtain a more particular view of their difficulties than the memorial exhibits. His reply has not yet been received, but it appears to me not likely to be sufficiently material to authorise any longer delay.

The object of the memorial is to show the necessity, first, of an increase in the Bullion Fund, secondly, of an increase in the number of workmen, and, thirdly, of a larger appropriation to meet increased wages and expenses, and to purchase new machinery.

In regard to first and second points, I have already expressed my views in a letter to the Department of the 26th of January last. Referring to the difficulties at the New Orleans Mint I then said:

"The other remedies, which are absolutely required, cannot be obtained without the action of Congress. The first of these is an increase in the amount of public moneys deposited in the Mints to secure prompt payments to depositors. The amount at New Orleans is not sufficient for the present contingency; and, if there be Branch mints established in California and New York, a much larger quantity will be called

for.

for. The present limit, of One million, ought therefore to be increased, and I think it should not be to less than three millions.

"The next remedy required is an increase in the number of workmen, and I think this to be indispensable. At present, the number is limited by law to twenty, which is quite insufficient. In a communication made to you from the New Orleans mint, dated December 20, 1849, and of which I have a copy, an estimate of the workmen required by the Officers is presented. In my judgment this ~~pro~~ number is greater than necessary at present, though it may be required hereafter. Indeed, there can be no permanent foundation for establishing a limit by law. I would propose, therefore, that the numbers limited for the Branch Mints be repealed, and that they be left hereafter to the action of the Director, confirmed by the Secretary of the Treasury."

I took the liberty of subjoining, to the letter from which the above extracts are taken, the form of a bill calculated to effect the objects in view, and to which I now again respectfully call your attention. I perceive that some action upon the matter has already taken place in Congress, and that a Bill has passed the House of Representatives increasing the Bullion Fund of the Mints to $2,000,000. For the reasons already stated, such a bill appears to me not entirely adapted to the emergency; both because the fund allowed is insufficient, and also because the restriction upon the number of laborers at the Branch Mints is unrepealed.

In regard to the appropriations necessary to meet increased wages and expenses, and to purchase new machinery, the views expressed in the memorial meet, in general, my concurrence. I doubt, however, the correctness of the estimate for the number of workmen necessary. That estimate is based upon a required force of 18 men in the melting & refining, and 20 in the coining department. In this mint we have only 19 men engaged in the melting department, and these are believed sufficient for all the business we are likely to receive, which will be probably double of that at New Orleans. In the coining department proper, exclusive of the machine shop, we have 18 men engaged, and have found no increase necessary in consequence of the influx of California gold. I should suppose, looking at the character and amount of the deposites and coinage at the New Orleans mint, that a sufficient annual appropriation for wages would be $25,000.

The new machinery asked for, with the exception of a fire-engine, should in my opinion be authorised. The amount required for this head would be about $13,000.

The memorial recommends that a foreman or assistant be allowed to the Assayer, to calculate assay reports, keep the books &c. Our experience at this Mint of the large increase of work of this kind, arising from the character of the California deposites, shows the reasonableness of this request. Considering the nature of the duties devolved upon him, however, he should be designated and appropriated for as a Clerk.

The memorial does not state whither any appropriation is needed to supply deficiencies in the present fiscal year; nor are sufficient data given for a complete revision in the estimate for the approaching fiscal year. I cannot venture to present such a one on my own responsibility, but will at once address the Superintendent on the subject. Indeed, the necessity of *any* enlarged appropriation is in a great measure dependent upon the changes in the law in relation to the number of their laborers.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
March 20; 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith a Statement of Deposites and Coinage at the Mint and its Branches in the Month of February, 1850.

I add the annexed statement, as I am sure that you will find it of interest.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Statement of California Gold deposited at the Mint & Branches.

Deposited to the close of 1849		$6,191,696
" in January 1850 at Phil^a	$987,322.22	
" " " " " N.O.	376,511.96	1,363,834
" " February " " Phil^a	1,951,333.95	
" " " " " N.O.	561,537.82	2,512,872
" " March " " Phil^a (by estimate)		1,200,000
		$11,268,402

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia April 1, 1857.

Sir,

When I informed Mr. Longacre, — the Engraver of the Mint, — of the determination of the President respecting him, he went, as you know, immediately to Washington, and obtained leave to finish his dies. This extension of time having elapsed, I feel anxious to know whether any decided steps are intended in this important matter. If the office is to be vacated, I would propose that the vacancy be not filled, until we can have time to test an experiment, the object of which is to show that the Office of Engraver of the Mint has become unnecessary, and even cumbersome, and might properly be abolished by law. Without committing myself to this view, anterior to experiment, allow me to state the grounds on which such experiment is proposed.

From the establishment of the mint, until the year 1835, the Die-Sinker, or, as he was officially termed, the Engraver of the mint, prepared the dies by such processes as were known to him, — such as making separate punches for the head on the obverse, the eagle, the wreath, the beads of the border, and the lettering of the legend, &c. — these parts being struck in separately and in detail. This course was very tedious, and has since been found unnecessary; and it was emphatically defective, inasmuch as no two dies could be made facsimiles of each other, even when executed by the most skillful hands. In fact the duties of the office, towards the close of the above period, could not be performed by one person, with the imperfect methods then known, and an assistant had become necessary, and was employed in this establishment.

In the progress of invention, our whole course of procedure, in the manufacture of dies, has, since that time, been changed, and the process has become almost entirely mechanical. A brief explanation may perhaps render it sufficiently clear.

In the manufacture of dies, there are two distinct cases which m be presented. The first occurs when a new device for the coins has become necessary. The second is when it is required to reproduce d in imitation of others already in adopted use. This latter case, of th reproduction of dies, is by far the most common, being required whene it is necessary to replace the dies which may be destroyed in the proc of coinage, or which may become out of date. The construction of dies on new devices is of rare occurrence.

For the re-production of a die already constructed, the first pro necessary is to procure a copy of the same in relief, the impression on the die itself being depressed, or sunk below the surface. To procure th copy, we set a suitably shaped piece of soft steel on the die, and st it in, by heavy blows, till an impression similar to that on a coin i produced. This reverse copy (called a hub) is then hardened, and becomes a punch, from which all dies required & may be produced by striking in soft steel, as already explained. This process is purely mechanical, and neither in the British nor French Mints, nor in our own, is it performed by the Engraver. The reproduction of dies at this mint, is in fact effected by one of our workmen, under the supervision of the Chief Coiner.

Such is the process required in copying a die already constructed. In the rare case of the manufacture of an entirely new die, arising from the introduction of a new coin, or a change in the devices of an old one, the assistance of the highest style of art is required, but it is not entirely, or principally, that of the die-sinker. This will be apparent from the following explanation.

A design for the coin (or medal) having been agreed upon, the first step is to make a wax medallion of the same, in relief, and large size. On this model, and the design for it, all the skill of the artist is exhausted. A mould of this medallion is then made, first in plaster, and subsequently in metal. This metal mould is then placed in a machine, which, by the aid of steam, or other mechanical power, and with scarcely any supervision, produces a die of the size required, and an absolute facsimile of the mould. The die-sinker then perfects the details of the work, and for this purpose a skillful artist is required. From the die so prepared, technically termed *matrix*, copies or working-dies are produced in the manner before explained.

From the foregoing explanations, it appears that, for the reproduction of dies, an Engraver of the Mint is not necessary, and that the construction of original dies is of rare occurrence, and demands the talents both of the medallion maker and the die-sinker. I have great doubts whether a permanent officer is needed to meet such an occasional exigency. It appears to me, that, to secure perfection in the devices of our coins, we should invite extended competition among artists, at least in the presentation of medallions, and that the temporary services of the most distinguished die-sinker should be engaged in the execution of the matrices. I do not, at present, however, propose any permanent arrangement, based on this view, but now simply renew the recommendation before made, that if a vacancy is proposed in the office of Engraver of the Mint, it be left unfilled. I can see no inconveniences which would result from allowing this vacancy to continue at least until the next session of Congress. In the meantime, I should engage the assistance of the best artists in the execution of a new series of designs & matrices ~~for~~ our coin, such as would I hope meet your approval, and justify me in recommending, as a final result, the abolishment of the office. The expense, which ~~may~~ would not be considerable, could be defrayed from the Ordinary Fund of the Mint.

Very respectfully, Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec'y of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia April 3, 1850.

Sir,

Agreeably to provisions in the acts of Congress of June 28, 1834, and March 3, 1843, I have to report to you the fineness of certain foreign gold and silver coins, made current in this country by law.

Gold Coins.

Great Britain. The gold coins of this country, whose legal fineness is 22 carats, or 916 $\frac{2}{3}$ thousandths, maintain an average fineness of 915$\frac{1}{2}$ thousandths.

France. The legal fineness is 900; the actual average 899 thousandths.

Portugal. No dates later than 1838 have been received; the actual assay of that date resulted 912 thousandths.

Brazil. Dates up to 1838, showed a fineness of 915 thousandths.

Mexico. The legal rate is 21 carats, or 875 thousandths; the average on assay is about 866 thousandths.

In respect to the two other nations, Spain and Colombia, the gold coinage of the former has recently undergone an entire change of standard which takes it out of the terms of the act of Congress; the assay of a single piece, a doblon of 100 reals, showing 898$\frac{1}{2}$ thousandths; while the latter country may be said to have no existence, having long since been divided into the three independent republics of New Granada, Ecuador, & Venezuela. The doubloons of New Granada have also recently undergone a change of legal rate, which renders our law in respect to them inoperative or obsolete; the professed fineness being 900 and the actual 894 thousandths. The gold coins of Ecuador, those of 1836 being the latest assayed, are 844 thousandths. No gold is coined in Venezuela, so far as is known here.

Silver Coins.

Mexico. The average fineness of recent coinage is 899 thousandths, the professed rate being "10 D. 20 G," or 902¾ thousandths, and the legalizing limit in our law being "not less than 897 thousandths."

Peru, Chili, and Bolivia, with some variations, maintain, on the average, a fineness not inferior to the mexican, as above stated. It must be noted, however, that within the past twenty years there was a debasement of the half and quarter dollars of Peru & Bolivia, reducing them to 25 per cent below their ~~real~~ professed value. It is not known whether this system is kept up to the present day.

Central America. Dollars of 1847 have been found to vary from 820 to 880 thousandths; and at the best they have forfeited the right to a place in our multifarious currency. The real, or eighth of a dollar, issued in 1846, varies from 550 to 637 thousandths. It may be considered as a revolutionary token.

France. The fineness is equal to the limit of our law, 900 thousandths, and is generally reported by us one thousandth higher, on account of the habitual intermixture of old pieces in deposits.

Brazil. The practise of restamping Spanish dollars is discontinued, so that the silver coinage no longer comes within the limit of this report.

The foregoing are all the varieties of gold and silver coins made current in the United States by law. It is much to be desired that the statutes in relation to them should be revised. The changes in monetary systems, and in our foreign trade, have brought us to the mistake of legalizing some coins, such as the gold of Portugal & Brazil, which are rarely to be obtained even as curiosities; while certain other pieces, which bear an exact and convenient relation to our moneys, such as the ten guilders of Netherlands, worth just four dollars, and the double-Frederic of Prussia, worth just eight dollars, both of them frequently to be seen amongst us, are not countenanced. Probably the best course to be taken would be the entire repeal of the laws in question; so that we might no longer maintain the strange position of legalizing a currency, manufactured in foreign parts, and over which we have no control, while at the same time we support a mint-force equal to all the exigencies of the country.

very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm M. Meredith,
Secy of the Treasury,
Washington.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia April 8, 1850.

Sir,

In consequence of representations made by me, in a letter to the Department of the 10th of Dec. last, the President consented that the number of Clerks for the Treasurer, in the Mint, should be restored to the original number of three; a reduction to two clerks having been made early in the year 1848. A third clerk has accordingly been appointed by me, and has entered upon his duties.

Our experience proves, however, that this clerical force is still insufficient, and I have now to request the Presidents consent to the appointment of one other Clerk to the Treasurer. In support of this ~~statement~~ request, I beg leave to present the following statement showing the number of deposites in the years 1847, 1848, and 1849, and in the first quarter of the present year; from which it will be seen that our office business now (estimated by the number of deposites) is nearly five times that of 1847, nearly six times that of 1848, and more than double that of 1849; thus,

Deposites of gold & silver	in the year	1847	1302
do	do	1848	1102
do	do	1849	2989
do	1st quarter of	1850 = 1584, or for the year =	6336

In the letter of 10 Dec. above referred to, I also entered into some particulars showing the peculiarly intricate calculations required in ascertaining the value of California Gold. We estimate the time re-

R. M. Patterson,
Director U.S. Mint,
Philadelphia,

quired for this purpose to be three times as great for a California deposite as for one of foreign coins; whence it is evident that the mere increase in the number of our deposits, large as it is, affords no certain measure of the increase of office business.

Our present clerks are efficient and attentive, and have given much more of their time to the work of the Mint than it is fair to expect of them. They have besides had the advantage of voluntary assistance from individuals not engaged in the Mint. With every exertion, however, they have only been able to keep up with the current routine of the office. The preparation of the Bullion Accounts for the department is therefore unavoidably delayed, and, without some further assistance, we cannot indicate with any certainty, the time for their completion.

I trust that the facts now presented will suffice to exhibit the necessity of an additional clerk. In anticipation of the Presidents consent, I beg to propose for the place Mr. J. Engle Negus of this city. This gentleman is, no doubt, personally known to you. He is a skilful and experienced accountant, and is held in high and just estimation by our community.

I respectfully propose that, if a Clerk be appointed, he be allowed the same salary as those now engaged in the Mint, - namely $1200.-

Very respectfully,

Your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, April 10, 1850.

Sir,

I have received from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, under date of the 1st inst., a letter informing me that Mr. Macmurdo, Treasurer of that Mint, "had closed his Department", on the 30th of March; so that they were without a Treasurer. Although I feel assured that this communication has also been made to you, by Mr. Kennedy, I have thought it best not to run the risk of your failing to receive this important information.

I have the honor to be,
respectfully & truly yours,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith, }
Secretary of the Treasury. }

Mint of the United States.
Philad.a April 1[illegible]. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed letter from the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States, and to respectfully ask your instructions relative to the payment of the Costs therein mentioned. I cannot pay it from the ordinary fund of the Mint, but as there is a claim for a large amount of taxes involved in the same question, I have deemed it proper to refer the whole subject to your consideration.

With the highest respect
I have the honor to be
Your ob.t servant,

James Ross Snowden
Treasurer.

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, April 16, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst., regarding my application to the President for his approval of introducing an additional Clerk for the Treasurer of the Mint. I receive, with great respect, his decision adverse to my request; though I am still convinced that the three Clerks of the Treasurer are not sufficient for the duties required. At this period in particular, when the quarterly accounts are to be prepared for the Department, it is impossible to get them ready under the ~~present~~ existing press of business, with the present Clerical force. Let me then ask your consent to the employment of an accountant, for a limited time, — say one month, — to be paid out of the Contingent fund of the Mint.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson.
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

James Ross Snowden,
Treas.,
U.S. Mint Apr. 16. 1850.

Mint of the United States
17 May 1850.

Sir,

In a letter which I had the honor of addressing to you on the 16th of March last, in relation to a memorial from officers of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, which you had referred to me, I urged the necessity of an enlarged appropriation for that Mint, for the approaching fiscal year, and stated that I would request an estimate from the Superintendent of the sums required. Having since received that estimate, I have now to request that the appropriation heretofore asked for that Mint may be amended, so as to allow

for wages of workmen ———	$25,000.
" new machinery	13,000.–

The increased estimate for wages can, however, only be made available upon the repeal of the law which limits the number of workmen, at that Mint, to twenty. I have, already, in the letter above referred to, shown the necessity of this, and as it is reasonable to anticipate the favorable action of Congress upon the subject, it is important that the appropriation should be commensurate with the increase of labor required by the business of the establishment.

I have also to request that the estimate heretofore made for this Mint may be amended, so as to appropriate, for the wages of Laborers, $32,000. We have been absolutely compelled to increase the numbers of our workmen, from the large increase of business induced by the California gold deposites, and

I see no probability that the number can be diminished. The estimate now made is based upon the average amount paid by us, at the present time, for wages.

I have before called your attention, in a letter of the 28th of January last, to the necessity of an additional appropriation of $1200 to pay the salary of the new clerk allowed to us, by the President, under the terms of sections 3 & 7 of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837.

Should the business of the Mint continue as at present, it is probable that the amount heretofore estimated for our Incidental & Contingent Expenses would be sufficient. Still, we have suffered such inconveniences from a want of funds, during the present fiscal year, that I deem it prudent to ask that the sum may be increased to $17,900, in addition to available funds on hand. Should the gold production of California be equal to the amount estimated by many of those best qualified to form an opinion, we shall probably find the sum asked for indispensable.

I beg leave to append hereto, in form, the amended estimates of appropriations required for this and the New Orleans Mint, for the approaching fiscal year.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Sec. of the Treasury

To the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia

For Salaries of Officers & Clerks	$19,800.00
" wages of workmen	32,000
" incidental & contingent expenses, in addition to available funds on hand	17,900
" Specimens of ores & coins	300
	$70,000

To the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

For Salaries of Officers & Clerks	$12,900
" wages of workmen	25,000
" incidental & contingent expenses, in addition to available funds on hand	23,777
" new machinery	13,000
	$74,677

Mint of the United States,
18 May 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, in which you ask my opinion as to the expediency of changing the alloy of our gold coins, so as to avoid the necessity of separating the silver from the California gold.

In reply I have to state that the measure, so far as relates to the coinage of the existing Mints, is inexpedient and unnecessary, and unjust to the owners of that bullion. The amount of silver in that gold is so considerable that, after all the deductions made for the expense of its separation, ~~the~~ a very considerable margin of profit is left to the depositor: were we, therefore, to leave it in the coins, since there are no ~~[illegible]~~ large refineries in this country except those in the Mints, the owners of Cal. bullion would be strongly tempted to export it to Europe, to secure the profit of the parted silver, and even our coins themselves would be sent over for the same purpose.

The motive which has led to the suggestion of this measure has, no doubt, been to assist the Mint in the difficulties to which it has been brought from the necessity of parting this bullion. While, however, such a remedy could at no time have been recommended, it has now become unnecessary even on that ground, since I have the pleasure to state that during the present month our ~~[illegible]~~ coinage and parting, have progressed at a rate which is double that of our average deposites for the past four months, and which would enable us, in all probability (without the aid which we may anticipate from the increase of our bullion fund), to resume prompt payments in from two to three months. Our gold coinage, from the 1st to the 17th was $1,880,320, while our average gold deposites are (fr the commencement of the present year) but $1,130,000 per month.

In reference to the necessity of allowing a large discretion as to the amount of silver to be left in the grea coinage of the proposed California Mint, I have already expressed my opinion, in a letter of the   of last. It is manifestly impracticable to establish a refinery in that Country, at the present time, at such charges for parting as would secure any benefit to the depositor for the separation of his silver. The California Coins, therefore, may with great propriety, be altogether alloyed with silver.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec'y of the Treasury

Mint of the United States
21 May 1850.

Sir,

An expectation seems to be entertained by our depositors, that, in virtue of the law lately passed by Congress, it is the intention of the department so to increase the Bullion Fund of the Mint as to enable us to resume our former system of prompt payment. Having as yet, however, received no instructions from you, in relation to the subject, I take the liberty of presenting such information as will serve to point out our actual condition, and the amount necessary to secure so desirable a result.

There is now in the Mint, of uncoined Gold Bullion, about — — — — — —		$4,068,877.90
Of this, there belongs to private depositors about	$2,325,000	
.... to the Ass^t. Treas^r. at this place —	902,727.90	
.... to the U. S. Bullion Fund ——	841,150.	4,068,877.90

Supposing no drafts to be made upon our bullion fund, and supposing the deposit of our Assistant Treasurer to be uncalled for, it is evident that $2,325,000 will completely relieve us from the balance of our debt. I am of opinion, however, that a very much less sum will suffice for this purpose. Of the amount due to private depositors a considerable portion is unassayed; we find moreover, that a large proportion of deposites is left uncalled for many days, or even weeks, after it may be claimed; added to which our coinage, at this time, is exceedingly large, ~~and~~ greatly exceeding our rate of deposites. In consideration of these circumstances we think that a transfer to this Mint of $1,500,000 would enable us to resume prompt payment of our gold deposites at once.

Should the condition of the Treasury admit of diverting such an amount to our use, there would be due by the Mint to the U. S., for the present bullion fund & the proposed addition and for the deposite of the Assistant Treasurer here, the large amount of $3,243,877.90 without some expectation of a return of a great part of this sum, it would be certainly unjust to ask the Treasury for all the assistance required. But the present efficiency of the Mint renders it certain that before many months, or even weeks, a large portion of the fund may be again return to the Treasury. I have to express the hope, however, that the department will permit at least $2000,000 to remain in the Mint as a permanent deposite.

It will not, perhaps, be necessary that any very large part of the fund we now require (supposing its transfer be authorized) shall be actually transported to this Mint. It will doubtless be convenient to a large number of our depositors that the payment to them should be made in New York, and our Treasurer will endeavor to make such arrangem as will meet their wishes.

Very respectfully,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith }
Secy of the Treasury. }

Mint of the United States.
Philada. May 22d 1850

Sir,

As you are no doubt taking measures, in view of the recent law, to supply the Mint with money or bullion, in order that we may resume prompt payments, I have deemed it proper to suggest the following mode by which this object can be promptly attained and the payments greatly facilitated.

I presume, that it is intended to supply the Mint from the office of the Assistant Treasurer at New York, and that in all probability that office has but a small amount in foreign coins. The Director of the Mint in his letter to you of a recent date suggested that besides the transfer of the amount due the Assistant Treasurer's office in this city, the further sum of $1,500,000 would be sufficient to accomplish the object in view. The amount now due to depositors at New York is about $1,500,000. I propose that three transfer drafts be issued in my favor on the Ast. Treas. U.S. at New York for, say $500,000 each, that I should go in person to that City, and receive the amount and pay the Mint Certificates in the office of the Assistant Treasurer there. That officer to be directed to detail one or more of his clerks to assist me in the payments. I would announce the fact that the Mint Certificates would be thus paid, and I have reason to believe that they would be generally if not all presented in two or at most three days to which period I might limit the transaction, as I could not well be longer absent from my official duties in this City: The balance if any, which might remain in my hands I could bring with me, or send to the Mint in the usual manner by Messrs Adams & Co's Express.

The adoption of this plan would save the trouble, expense and delay of bringing the funds to this City from New York and then sending them back again: to avoid which and to carry out the above suggested arrangement, should it meet your approbation, I am willing to take the labour and anxiety which would devolve upon me.

I deem it proper to observe that I have submitted the above suggestions to Dr. Patterson the Director of the Mint and I am authorised to say that they meet his entire approbation. I have the honor to be with the highest respect, Y. ob. Servt.

James Ross Snowden
Treasurer.

Hon.ble
W. M. Meredith
Secty of the Treasy

Mint of the United States,
25 May 1850.

ir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of
sterday, in which you ask to what amount the bullion fund,
the New Orleans Mint, should, in my opinion, be increased.
The balance due to depositors in that institution, on the 30th of
arch last, was, as nearly as I can estimate it from the materi-
l in my possession, about $2,100,000. Since that time, owing to
e vacancy in the office of Treasurer, no deposites have been made,
d I take it for granted that the labor in the operative depart-
nts has been continued, so that materials have accumulated,
which a large portion of the above balance may be met by the
int. I should suppose, therefore, that an increase of their bullion
nd to $1,000,000 would relieve them from all present difficul-
ies.

It is proper, however, that I should again renew the expres-
n of my opinion (already before communicated to the Depart-
nt in my letters of Jan. 26th & the 17th inst.) that until the opera-
e force of the New Orleans Mint be increased its difficulties must
liable to frequent renewal. The obstacle to this increase is in
2d section of the Branch Mint Act of March 3d 1835, which limits
number of workmen at the N. O. Mint to 20. It is so apparent,
wever, that the operative force should only be limited by the work to
done that I renew the hope that the law may be repealed.

n. W. M. Meredith
ec. of the Treasy

Very respectfully,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

James R. Snowden
Treas. U.S. Mint,
Phil. May 22 1850

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia June 1, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor of presenting the following statements in the belief that you will find them of interest.

The deposites for coinage during the month which has just closed (estimating the value of those still unassayed) are as follows:

California Gold	$2,270,000
Other gold — — — — —	150,000
Silver — — — —	30,000
Total of deposites	$2,450,000.

The coinage during the same month was as follows:

Gold — — — — —	3,100,000
Silver — — — — —	23,000
Copper — — — —	2,462
Total of Coinage	$3,125,462

The amount of California gold received for coinage exceeds, by $305,000 that of any former month, and yet the amount of coinage of gold is greater than that deposited, by $680,000.

There have been paid, during the month of May, the following sums.

In gold .. paid at the Mint	$2,901,522.46
do " " New York	1,359,533.28
Total payments in gold (carried over)	4,261,055.74

Total payments in gold (brot over) …	4,261,055.74
In silver, at the Mint	42,192.97
Total payments, during the month	$4,303,248.71

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec. of the Treasury

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, June 7, 1850.

Sir,

In a letter of the 8th of April last, I requested the consent of the President to the employment of a new clerk to the Treasurer of the Mint, giving such reasons as appeared to me to justify this measure. In reply, you informed me, by a letter of the 13 April, that "taking into consideration the very recent increase in the number of clerks, the President declined, for the present, authorising the appointment asked for."

It is with regret, in view of the above facts, that I feel myself constrained again to bring this subject before the attention of the President. I do so because I am sure that the interests of the Mint imperatively require an increase in our clerical force, and because I believe that the ground of objection made to my previous request was founded on a misapprehension.

It is true that the number of clerks was increased in the early part of this year. In fact, however, the appointment then authorised merely *restored* us to the number which, for many years previous to 1848 had been allowed to the Treasurer. In that year a vacancy having occurred it was deemed proper to endeavor, if possible, to dispense with the necessity of a new appointment, and accordingly, for two years, the Treasurer's clerks were reduced to two. Upon the very great and unanticipated increase in our business required by the influx of California Bullion, we were admonished of the necessity of returning to the original clerical force of the Mint, and to this the President consented.

But since that time the office business has gone on steadily increasing, and it appears but proper that our preparations for it should be commensurate. I think a very fair index of that increase may be found in the number of our deposites. The gold deposites of the last 5 months of the past year, (which so far exceeded our usual proportion as to justify the new clerk who has been appointed,) were 1652, or an average of 330 monthly; the gold deposites of the first 5 months of the *present* year were 2586, or at the rate of 517 monthly. Our gold deposites at this time have already much exceeded those of the whole year 1849.

Comparing our rate of deposites now with that in several preceding years, the contrast is still more striking. I begin with 1847, when the number of clerks was the same as at present.

Deposites of gold & silver in	1847	1302
do	1848	1102
do	1849	2989
do	first 5 mo's of 1850 = 2586; rate per year	6206

As a consequence of this increase of business, with our present insufficient force, it is with the greatest difficulty that the ordinary routine business of the Mint is kept up; and in order to do this even it is necessary that the clerks work at home, and before and after office hours. They have also to request the voluntary assistance of others. A sickness of either of them, for even a few days, would be very seriously felt, and considering their entire want of relaxation such an event is not at all improbable.

In view of the considerations now imperfectly presented, I earnestly hope that the former decision of the President will be re-considered.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec. of Treasury }

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, June 10, 1850.

Sir,

I am much gratified to learn, from your letter of the 8th inst., that the President has done me the honor of "sanctioning the employment of a new clerk to the Treasurer of the Mint as requested by me".

In compliance with the 3d & 7th sections of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837, I respectfully ask the approbation of the President to the appointment of Mr. I. Engle Negus to supply the place to be filled by the new clerk to the Treasurer, and I propose that his salary be $1200, the same as that of the other clerks. Mr. Negus is a gentleman of excellent character and a skilful and practised accountant.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Sec'y of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, June 15, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send herewith the Bond with Surety of Mr. J. Engle Negus, on entering upon his duties as a Clerk to the Treasurer of the Mint. The amount of the bond, – of five thousand dollars, – is the same as that required of the other Clerks.

May I ask that application be made for an additional appropriation, of twelve hundred dollars, to pay the salary of this clerkship, for the next fiscal year.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, July 1, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ulto., enclosing communications from the Superintendent & Treasurer of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, in which they present the necessity of an increase in the number of their salary. You have asked me to present my views upon this application.

In a letter which I had the honor of addressing to the Department on the 16th of March last, I signified my approval of the request for an increase of clerical force at that Mint. I have seen no reason, since that time, to change my views. We have had such experience, at this Mint, of the increased labor required of our clerks, in consequence of the number & character of the California deposites, that I feel assured the very small number of clerks allowed at New Orleans must be too much overburdened to secure promptness in the transaction of the Treasurer's business. I think it likely, too, that the calculations of deposites cannot receive that strict verification which the interests, both of the depositors & the government demand.

As respects the salary which should be allowed, the responsibilities of these clerks are such that this should be quite above the average. At this mint the clerks receive $1200; at New Orleans, considering the increased price of living, a salary of $1800 would not probably be too great.

Very respectfully
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

W. M. Meredith, Esq.
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, July 1, 1850.

Sir,

Since the letter of the Director of the Mint, in reply to your communication of the 28th ult., was sent to the Mail, I discover that the letters of the Superintendent & Treasurer at the New Orleans Mint, were not enclosed. I have now the honor to transmit them.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
Robert Patterson
Director's Clerk.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
July 2d, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the amounts of deposits and Coinage at the Mint and Branch Mints, in the month of May last.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/ Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, July 6, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d inst., in which you ask my views in relation to a discovery, made by Prof. Richd. S. McCulloh, of a new process for parting gold and silver.

I have in answer to say that I am in ignorance of the process referred to by Mr. McCulloh. I know that he has been engaged in a method of improving the parting process; but neither I, nor any officer of the Mint, has been made acquainted with the results.

Until the process shall be fully made known to us, and tried upon a large scale, no opinion can be properly given as to the merit and the value of Mr. McCulloh's discovery.

Very respectfully.
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, 31 July 1850.

Sir,

In consequence of the great increase of clerical labor required at this establishment, I obtained the consent of the President, communicated in a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury of the 12th ult., to the appointment of a new clerk to the Treasurer of the Mint at a salary of $1200., under the authority of the 3d & 7th sections of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837. Subsequently, under date of the 15th ult., I requested that an additional appropriation of $1200 might be asked for, to pay the salary of this clerk. I regret to find, however, upon examination of the appropriations reported for this Mint, that the item of salaries is still deficient by $1200, and I have therefore to renew my request that the attention of the proper committee may be asked, to supply the deficiency. We require, for salaries, $21,000.

At the same time I think it but prudent to request that the item for our incidental & contingent expenses may be increased from $17,900 to $25,000. The expenses of the Mint will to a certain extent be commensurate with the gold production of California. In former estimates, I had conjectured that our monthly deposites from this source could not exceed $2,000,000. In the present month, however, those deposites have reached about $2,600,000; and all the information we receive leads to the conclusion that our receipts of bullion for the passing fiscal year will not be less than $30,000,000. An increase in our estimates is therefore absolutely necessary.

I have the honor to be,
very respectfully your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington.

R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

Mint of the United States
3 August 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a statement of the operations of the Mint & Branches, for the month of June last. Its transmission has been delayed beyond the usual period in consequence of the report from the Branch Mint at New Orleans having been detained, for satisfactory reasons.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thos Corwin,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Aug. 24, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to return to you the enclosed statement made ~~to you~~ by Mr. J. Pecare, and which you have referred to me for my examination and report.

The case is a very simple one. Orders were given by the Treasurer of the Mint to the House of Mess. Pecare & Co., for copper planchets. In an Order called for on the 25th of January 1849, it was stated, in a letter of that date, that "the following requisitions in regard to the character of the planchets must be strictly observed:

"The planchets must conform to the Specimen-one, - herein enclosed, - as to the surface, milling, and diameter. They must be annealed, and cleansed after they are milled, and the pieces must be as nearly as possible of the same weight. The standard weight of the piece is 168 grains; the variation from this should never exceed 3½ grains on the average. A nearer approximation to the standard must be aimed at. The pieces must never be too heavy."

The order which gave rise to Mr. Pecare's complaint was presented on the 9th of April 1850. A letter at that time was sent to him as follows:

"Gentlemen,

"Having considered your proposition to furnish the Mint with copper planchets at 28 cents per pound Avoir. payable in cash, I now give you an order for 30 kegs of 240 lbs each. You may forward them in separate invoices of 10 kegs each, as we shall from time to time direct. The first invoice may be sent as soon as convenient.

"In my letter to you of Jan. 25, 1849. I stated the conditions to be observed by you in supplying planchets at that time. I beg to remind you that the same conditions are to be strictly complied with in the present instance, — excepting of course as to price and mode of payment."

In June 1850, eleven ~~casks~~ kegs of planchets were sent, from Mess. Pecar & Co., to ~~the~~ the Mint; and on the 27th of that Month, the Treasurer sent to them the following letter.

"Gentlemen,—

"I this day delivered to the Chief Coiner your invoice of eleven kegs of copper planchets. He reports to me that they "are found on examination to vary beyond the the legal limits," and that "they are also of irregular sizes, and too dirty for coinage in a satisfactory manner." — I have myself examined them, and find the statement of the Coiner to be correct.

"I regret therefore that I am under the necessity of declining to receive these planchets, — and also of revoking my order of April 9th."

This determination, on the part of the Treasurer, had my approval, as evidently called for and justified by the terms on which the order was given, and which were not complied with.

The loss thus sustained by Mess. Pecare & Co. is much to be regretted, — but I do not see that there can be any just claim for a renewal of the order, and much less "that such allowance may be made to them, as will compensate for the damage they have sustained."

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
August 30th 1850

Sir

In reply to your communication of yesterday enclosing certain resolutions of a meeting of Cashiers of Banks in Philadelphia, I have the following statements to offer

In the latter part of May last, in accordance with an act of Congreſs authorizing the transfer, funds to the amount of one and a half millions of dollars were placed at the disposal of the Mint by the Secretary of the Treasury, to pay off the accumulation of deposits of gold bullion. For some time after that date, we were enabled to keep pace with depositors, but in July we began again to fall in arrears, and are now so far in that condition that deposits cannot be liquidated of later date than the 9th inst. and we have about $2.775.000. on hand not paid for — At the same time, and in fact ever since the coinage of double eagles fairly commenced, our coinage has been almost entirely limited to pieces of that denomination with an eye to the greatest dispatch poſsible. Besides which, our parting operation, that is, the chemical proceſs of separating from the gold the silver contained in it, has been going on with accumulating rapidity, and upon a scale unexampled. I may safely say, in any part of the world, ~~[illegible]~~ —

That we shall, at an early day, be able to extricate ourselves from this embarraſsment and to keep above its reach, I feel aſsured from the approaching completion of our new acceſsion and arrangement of steam power, which alone is the thing wanting to put us in a working order adequate to the extraordinary exigency. Since the employment of steam in the separating department, the two main branches of labor, namely, the separating and the rolling, have impeded each other; and we have been obliged to employ the steam on one side from six o'clock in the morning until four in the afternoon, and then, from that hour until eight o'clock, to transfer it to the other.

Having thus stated our condition and prospects, I beg leave to say, that the request of the Banks is perfectly reasonable and should be responded to. In fact we are already engaged in the work they propose. The Chief Coiner has now in a state of forwardneſs, about 50.000 dollars in half eagles, 97.000 in quarter eagles, and 207.000 in gold dollars. It is to be borne in mind however, that the preſsure they complain of, applies chiefly to Pennsylvania, and not to the whole Union.

On the whole, I beg leave to recommend, if the public interest in other respects will allow, that a sum not leſs than that which was transferred to the Mint in May last $1.500.000 and if poſsible, two millions, be again deposited with us, for the pur purpose; and that our Treasurer be authorized as in the former instance, to make payments, as far as there are dues, in New York. The pressure of deposits has now intermitted, and we shall probably receive no great amount of gold until the arrival of the next California Steamer, which will be about the 7th of September; by which time, with the progress of coinage and the aid above asked for, we shall no doubt be again on the footing of prompt payment; with the fair expectation of maintaining it, and of repaying the loan. We shall also be able to lay aside or greatly curtail the coinage of double eagles, if depositors and the public convenience require it, and to substitute the smaller denominations

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

The papers sent by me from the Department are returned herewith.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Sept. 4, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to present herewith, a Statement of Deposites and Coinage, at the Mint and its Branches, in the Month of July, 1850.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin.
Secretary of the Treasury.

Washington 9th Septr. 1850.

To the Honble. Thos. Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Sir

Meſsrs. James C. Booth and Campbell Morfit Chemists of Philadelphia are the proprietors of an invention for refining Gold upon a new and economical plan, and I am authorized to offer the use of it to the United States for their present Mints and any that may be established in California, upon terms of great advantage to the Government.

The present cost of refining Gold at the Mint is $1500. per Million — By this way all that may be saved: Thus, if 20 Millions are refined per annum the saving will be $30.000: if 30. Millions the saving will be $45,000 and so on in the same ratio.

As the great influx of Gold from California renders it indispensable that some more expeditious way of refining than that now followed at the Mint should be introduced, the present plan which besides its economy extends the power of operation within the same limits greatly, beyond that under the known mode, will answer in a cheap form all the demands that are likely to come from any sources.

The Cost to the Government for refining is 5½ cts p oz
The Seigneurage now charged to depositors is . . . . 5 cts.
producing a loſs to the Mint of . . . . . . ½ C.

By the present proceſs, Silver is used to so large an extent that the average amount neceſsary to be kept on hand is about $100.000 — By the new invention no

Silver

Silver is required, so that the whole of the interest upon the above sum would be saved; besides the loss incident to the constant chemical action on the Silver.

The present capabilities at the United States Mint at Philadelphia do not permit more than two and a half Millions of Gold to be refined per Month: while upon the proposed plan four times as much or ten millions can be refined in the same space and time.

In this particular alone the new method would augment the capacities of the Mint four fold, and thus without cost put down all objections arising from delay attendant upon the old mode.

Another great advantage is that no ingredient is employed in the process to change the malleableness of the Gold, or in any degree render it brittle or impair its natural ductility.

The advantages of the new plan are;

First. That it is expeditious, so that any amount of Gold brought from California or elsewhere can be refined in the *present* Mint buildings

Second - It is safe so that no more material can be lost in refining than by the present or any of the *best* processes known; and less than by many other modes.

Third - It is a convenient way both as regards the apparatus and materials. The latter are among the most abundant in commerce and are every where to be obtained.

The apparatus is of the simplest kind, as wooden

Vessels

Veſsels can be used in the operation and only a moderate heat is required

Fourth - It is easily executed by operatives, and they are subject to little or no noxious vapors from the materials employed.

Fifth - In consequence of a smaller amount of offensive vapors being evolved by this proceſs than through any other, it can be securely conducted in densely populated places

Sixth - The separation of Gold and Silver is more effectual by it than by any other, for all the Silver may be extracted from the Gold if required

Seventh - By the use of it the large quantity of Silver now kept in the Mint for refining Gold at the cost of the United States will be saved and that amount be allowed to be thrown into circulation.

Eighth - It is the cheapest proceſs known by far; for the apparatus required is of the simplest kind and the materials abundant and of low prices.

The cost of these materials is leſs than one cent per ounce of Gold to be refined: Whereas the cost to the Mint by the present Mode is about four cents per Oz. for materials

By this difference of cost - if 30 Millions are refined per annum the Governmt. will save Forty-five or Fifty thousand dollars in that time.

Ninth : It requires leſs labor than the present proceſs for a large portion is spent upon melting, handling and recovering the Silver now used: this labor is

dispensed

dispensed with as regards the Silver, as that metal is not employed in the new method.

Tenth — It is better adapted to all the Mints now established or which may be established, than any other proceſs; because the apparatus is easily constructed in any place, the materials are leſs bulky and more conveniently transported, and it requires the smallest quantity of acid.

It is for these and for other reasons the best yet devised for refining in California or the interior of a Country.

As the ordinary fund of the Mint at Philadelphia derived from coining is quite sufficient for the purpose, I would suggest, that the Government should purchase out the right to use the invention at that Office for a stipulated sum to be agreed upon *after the Director shall have satisfied himself experimentally of the utility economy and value of the improvement.*

The same course could be adopted in relation to Mints elsewhere.

The whole invention would be offered now at a groſs sum, but to disembarraſs the Department upon the question of the *entire* right, I prefer to propose the use of it as it may be wanted, and the estimate of the value according to its usefulneſs and effect can be easily ascertained between the Director of the Mint and the proprietors, subject to the concurrence of the Secretary.

The plan now presented does not seek to withdraw any money from the Treasury but on the contrary

to

to convert an expense into a profit, and to produce a revenue from a new source.

Indeed so certain are the proprietors as to the saving of this proceſs to the Mint, that they are willing to receive their payment for the use of the invention *out of the very fund which that saving will create*. In this way the proprietors become the underwriters or insurers of their compensation and if nothing is saved nothing will be paid.

The foregoing statement is intended to shew that the refining can be done at much leſs than the cost now charged for that duty.

The 18th Section of the Act of Congreſs of the 18th January 1837 seems therefore to make it imperative upon the Director of the Mint with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury to change the present modes as it is expreſsly enacted that the rate of charges for refining shall not exceed the actual expense of the materials and labor employed in such cases.

It is for this reason that the Secretary is now applied to; for as the law directs that the charges shall be altered from time to time, it contemplates a probability that there would be good cause for a change, and makes it obligatory that it should take place when the cost of labor and materials could be reduced – as they may be by the new method.

In order to test the practicability economy and usefulneſs of the proposed plan, I respectfully request that instructions may be given to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia to compare it in all *results* with any

other

other used or known at that Office for refining Gold, and to report to you the particulars of that comparison as well as value of the process to that Office.

Respectfully
Your Ob Sert
Henry M Morfit
pr James C Booth
and Campbell Morfit
proprietors

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Sept. 11, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, requesting an examination, at the Mint, of a proposed new mode of refining gold, of which Mess^rs Booth and Morfit are proprietors. I shall use every exertion to satisfy your request, although our time and room are now in great requisition for the current work of the establishment, and a satisfactory examination will require repeated experiments, upon a large scale.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Copy sent to Com Library 27 Sept

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Sept. 26, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, respecting an application made by the Committee on the Library for a series of "Specimens of gold Coins." I presume that these Specimens include one set of Gold Master Coins, and I have the satisfaction to say that these can be furnished without delay.

The number of Coins will be five, and their cost $ 38.50. =f.v. WHERE?

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Ans^d Octo 1. 1850

U. S. Branch Mint ~~12~~
New Orleans Sep. 23^d 1850 120^a

Sir,

Mr Wickes has rec^d from the Treas^r of the U. S. the remittance refer'd to in your letter of the 10^th inst.

I beg leave, respectfully, to remark, that there must be an error in the balance stated to stand, at that time, to the credit of the appropriation for Salaries of our Officers & Clerks, inasmuch as those salaries, which have already been drawn, were not provided for beyond the last Fiscal year, which expired on the 30^th June last. I have consequently requested our Treas^r to hold this amount subject to your further directions, say $ 3,225.

I will be unable to transmit, in accordance with your request, any requisition in reference to our wants until I shall have been informed of the nature and amount under the various heads, of the appropriations for this Mint for the current year.

Very respectfully
Y^r Ob. Serv^t
J. M. Kennedy
Sup^t

Hon. Tho^s Corwin
Secretary
of the Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Sept. 28, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to present to you, a Statement of deposites and Coinage at the Mint and its Branches in the month of August last.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To
Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, 8 Oct. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, asking certain statistics relative to the coinage, deposites, expenses &c of the Mint & Branch Mints. The information which you desire will be furnished with the least practicable delay.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thos. Corwin,
Sec. of Treasury.

From
R. M. Patterson
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia
October 8th, 1850.

Mint of the United States,
10 October, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., with another directed to you by the Secretary of the Navy, regarding the "preparation of medals for certain French, British and Spanish officers," and enquiring whether they can be prepared at the Mint without interfering with the usual operations of the establishment. In reply I have to state that it has always been the usage to strike the national medals at the Mint, this operation being superintended by the Chief Coiner, (now Mr. Franklin Peale,) who has charge of the dies. For the preparation of the dies for such medals as are probably contemplated by the Navy department it will be necessary to secure the services of a competent die-sinker. Mr. Wright, of New York, who executed the dies for the Scott & Taylor medals, can probably be engaged for the work, and is the most competent artist known to us. If it be desired by the Navy department I will, on the receipt of the designs, take such steps as are necessary to secure the prompt & creditable manufacture of these medals. The terms will of course in a measure depend upon the size of the medals, the complication of the designs &c.

Very respectfully, &c.
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Copy

Mint of the U States
Philadelphia
Octo. 24. 1850

Sir

The Treasurer of the Mint has handed to me your letter of yesterday in which you inquire of him the Standard weight and value of the silver bullion transferred by the Treasurer of the Branch Mint at Charlotte N.C. The inclosed memorandum will furnish the particulars required. The proceeds of the deposits $2696.20. have been passed to the credit of the Branch Mint in my account.

Very respectfully
your obt servant
(Signed) R M Patterson
Director

J L Smith Esq
1st Auditor

Mint of the United States,
Nov. 1, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to report to you that the funds, & books in the hands of Col. Snowden, late Treasurer of the Mint & Assistant Treasurer of the United States, were yesterday transferred to his successor in office, Edw'd C. Dale, Esq.

The Balances stated to be in the Mint proper were as follows:

Bullion Fund	$675,105.02
Ordinary Fund	2,944.52
Copper	3,450.40
	$681,499.94

The Balances stated to be in the Assistant Treasury were as follows:

General Treasury	$363,526.43
Post Office Fund	145,269.25
Fund for Int. on Try notes	816.25
do U. S. Loans	6,719.00
Pension Fund	25,730.60
	542,061.43

The balances above presented corresponded with the moneys transferred. I superintended, in person, the count required. To insure accuracy, the coins were emptied from the bags, and weighed, to ascertain their correspondence with the standard required, which in every instance proved satisfactory. The funds not tested by weight were separately counted.

I have the satisfaction to state that every facility has been afforded by the retiring Treasurer to his successor in office which the occasion required.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R.M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
8 Nov. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send enclosed copies of the Estimates for the Mint & Branches this day forwarded to the Register of the Treasury. The enclosed "Grounds of Estimates" will sufficiently explain the reasons on which the appropriations asked for this Mint & that at New Orleans have been based. It will be seen that the appropriation asked for this Mint is, considering the magnitude of our deposits, comparatively small. Our actual expenses are of course greatly increased; but, as they principally arise from the extensive refining operations required to prepare our deposits of California gold into bullion fit for coinage, we are enabled to meet them from the deductions which we are by law authorised to make from those deposits to defray the cost necessary for that object.

The estimates for the Mints at Charlotte & Dahlonega are to the usual amount, & do not require comment.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of Treasury.

Estimate of the expenses of the Mint of the United States Philadelphia, for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1851

	Dollars	Dollars
For salaries of officers and clerks, viz		
The Director	3500	
Treasurer	2000	
Chief Coiner	2000	
Melter & Refiner	2000	
Engraver	2000	
Assayer	2000	
Assistant Assayer	1500	
Three Clerks, each $1200	3600	18,600
For wages of workmen		25,200
For incidental and contingent expenses, including fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, repairs and wastage, in addition to available funds on hand		11,900
For Specimens of ores and coins to be reserved at the Mint		300
Total appropriation required		56,000

Estimate of the Expenses of the Branch Mint, New Orleans, for the fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1851.

	Dollars	Dollars
For salaries of Officers & Clerks, viz.		
The Superintendent	2,500	
Treasurer	2,000	
Assayer	2,000	
Coiner	2,000	
Melter & Refiner	2,000	
Two clerks, each $1200	2,400	12,900
For wages of Workmen		17,500
For incidental and contingent expenses, including fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, repairs & wastage, in addition to available funds on hand		23,777
For machinery & machinists		1,500
Total appropriations required		55,677

Estimate of the expenses of the Branch Mint, Charlotte, N.C., for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1851

	Dollars	Dollars
For salaries of Officers and Clerks, viz.		
The Superintendent	2000	
Coiner	1500	
Assayer	1500	
Clerk	1000	6000
For Wages of Workmen		3500
For incidental & contingent expenses, including fuel, materials, stationery, repairs & wastage		2100
For repairing the wall of the ditch in front of the Mint, and for making other repairs in and about the lot, and for painting		1000
Total appropriations required		12,600

Estimate of the expenses of the Branch Mint, Dahlonega, Ga, for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1851

	Dollars	Dollars
For salaries of Officers and Clerks, viz.		
The Superintendent	2000	
Coiner	1500	
Assayer	1500	
Clerk	1000	6,000
For Wages of Workmen		3,600
For incidental and contingent expenses including fuel, materials, stationery, repairs, and wastage.		2,000
Total appropriations required		11,600

Extract from a letter of James W. Osborne, Supt. of the Branch Mint, Charlotte N.C., accompanying the Estimates for that Branch for the fiscal year 1850-51

"In explanation of the last item, of $1000, I beg to inform you, that in order to carry off the water from the Streets the town authorities had to cut quite a deep ditch in front of the Mint, which it was necessary to wall up, and which had been walled up by the Mint. A year or two ago, in repairing the streets, it became necessary to deepen it still more, and in doing so they had to go below the foundation of the wall, which has caused it in a great measure to tumble in, thereby allowing the side walk gradually to abrade by the rain. The fences, also, about the Mint, have become very much in need of painting, not only to give them a decent appearance, but to protect them from the weather.

I am very respectfully
your obt. Servt
(signed) James W. Osborne,
Superintendent

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint

Specification of Appropriations required for the Mint of the United States & its Branches, for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1852.

1. For the Mint of the United States.

For salaries of officers & clerks	$21,000
" wages of workmen	47,000
" incidental & contingent expenses, including fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, repairs & wastage, in addition to available funds on hand	700
" Specimens of ores & coins, to be reserved at the Mint	300
Total required for Philadelphia Mint	$69,000

2. For the Branch Mint, New Orleans.

For salaries of officers & clerks	$17,300
" wages of workmen	33,500
" incidental & contingent expenses, including fuel, materials, stationery, water-rent, repairs, new machinery & wastage, in addition to available funds on hand	45,200
Total required for New Orleans Mint	$96,000

3. For the Branch Mint, Dahlonega, Geo.

For salaries of officers & clerk	$6,000
" wages of workmen	3,600
" incidental & contingent expenses, including wastage	1,400
Total required for Dahlonega Mint	$11,000

4. For the Branch Mint, Charlotte N.C.

For salaries of officers & clerk	$6,000
" wages of workmen & watchmen	4,100
" Contingent expenses, including wastage	1,500
Total required for Charlotte Mint	$11,600

Grounds of the Estimates of the Mint of the United States, for the fiscal year 1851-52

The balance in the Ordinary Fund of the Mint, 31 Oct. 1850, was	$2944
The balance to credit of Profit & Loss, 30 Sept. 1850, was	29,000
The appropriations of the current fiscal year, undrawn & available, are	78,650
The estimated deductions on deposites, to be carried to credit of Profit & Loss, prior to 30 June 1851, are	66,500
The estimated profits on copper to the same date, are	8,000
Total estimated means available for the service of the current fiscal year	$185,094

The estimated expenses during the same period may be thus estimated:

For salaries	15,750
" wages	24,000
" incidental expenses	57,250
" wastage of 1850	70,094
Total estimated expenses to 30 June 1851	$167,094

Estimated balance 30 June 1851, applicable to expenses of 1851-2	$18,000
To this must be added the estimated deductions from deposites of 1851-2	125,000
Also the profits on copper	8,000
Total estimated means for 1851-2	$151,000

The estimated expenses during the same time, assuming our deposites to reach Fifty millions of dollars, may be set down as follows:

Wastage of 1851	$76,100
Salaries of Officers & clerks	21,000
Wages	47,000
Contingent expenses	75,600
Specimens of ores & coins	300
Total estimated expenses	$220,000
Deduct estimated means as above	151,000
And the estimated appropriation required is	$69,000

Specification of Appropriations

For salaries	21,000
" wages	47,000
" incidental expenses, in addition to available funds	700
For specimens of ores & coins	300
	$69,000

(Copy)

Grounds of the Estimates of the Branch Mint, at New Orleans, for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1852.

Estimated means & expenses for the 4th Quarter of 1850, & the 1st & 2d. Quarters of 1851.

Probable Means.

1. Available balance in the hands of the Treasurer, 30 Sept. 1850	$5,389.38
2. Appropriations undrawn & still available	79,077.00
3. Estimated legal deductions from deposites	18,533.62
	$103,000

Probable Expenses

1. Salaries of Officers & Clerks	$17,300
2. Wages of workmen	24,000
3. Wastage of the whole year 1850	6,000
4. Incidental & contingent expenses	42,700
5. Machinery & machinists	13,000
	$103,000

All the expenses of the current fiscal year ending 30 June 1851, including the cost of acid which is provided for by the legal deductions from depositors, may be set down at $112,000, with a coinage of about five millions. The number of laborers having been increased & many important improvements made in the melting & coining departments, the facilities for coinage at this Branch Mint are much greater. There is a large amount of Mexican dollars in the possession of the Banks of this city, which they are desirous to have recoined, and a continuation of the supply of gold from California being expected, we may assume that a coinage of about Eight millions will be effected in the next year following, and we must estimate as the expenses of the year ending 30th June 1852, including wastage of the whole year 1851, at $128,000

Subtracting therefrom estimated legal deductions from depositors during the year	32,000
There will remain to be asked for to cover the expenses of the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1852	$96,000

Namely: for the half year ending

Dec. 31, 1851, which includes wastage of the whole year 1851, & also repairs & new machinery	$51,500
For the half year ending June 30th 1852, as per estimate	44,500
Total to be asked for	$96,000

Branch Mint of the United States
New Orleans Oct. 29, 1850
(signed) I. I. Wickes, Treasr.

Specification of Appropriations required for the Ordinary Expenses of the Branch Mint of the United States at New Orleans, for the fiscal year ending June 30; 1852, supplementary to the "Grounds of the Estimates of the Branch Mint New Orleans for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1852"

Specification of Appropriations required for the whole fiscal year ending 30 June 1852

1. Salaries of Officers & Clerks		$17,300
2. Wages of workmen		33,500
3. Wastage of the whole year 1851		6,000
4. Incidental & contingent expenses	$52,200	
Less estimated legal deductions	22,000	30,200
5. New Machinery		9,000
Total appropriations required for the year ending as above		$96,000

Branch Mint of the United States
New Orleans Oct. 29, 1850.
(signed) J. J. Wickes, Treas.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, 19 Nov. 1850

Sir,

I have the honor to send enclosed the statements requested in your letter of the 8th ult. They have been prepared with all the despatch which the state of the case admitted, since it was necessary to wait for the reports from the Branch Mints embracing the operations of the past month.

The statements forwarded embrace the following particulars: 1st. The coinage of the Mints, annually, from the commencement of their operations; 2nd the deposites of United States gold to the 31st Oct. 1850; 3d the expenses of the Mints to the same period.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of Treasury

Statement of the Coinage of the Mint & Branch Mints of the United States, from the commencement of their operations, until October 31st. 1850.

Gold Coinage

1. Mint of the United States, at Philadelphia.

Periods	Double-Eagles	Eagles	Half Eagles	Quarter Eagles	Gold Dollars
	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces
1793 1794 1795		2,795	8707		
1796		6,934	6196	963	
1797		8,323	3609	859	
1798		7,974	24867	614	
1799		17483	7451	480	
1800		25,965	11622		
1801		29,254	26006		
1802		15090	53176	2612	
1803		8979	33506	423	
1804		9795	30475	3327	
1805			33183	1781	
1806			64093	1616	
1807			84093	6812	
1808			55578	2710	
1809			33875		
1810			100287		
1811			99581		
1812			58087		
1813			95428		
1814			15454		
1815			635		
1816					
1817					
1818			48588		
1819			51723		
1820			263806		
1821			34641	6448	
1822			17796		
1823			14485		
1824			17340	2600	
1825			29060	4434	
1826			18069	760	
1827			24913	2800	
1828			28029		
1829			57442	3403	
1830			126351	4540	
1831			140594	4520	
1832			157487	4400	
1833			193630	4160	
1834			732169	117370	
1835			371534	131402	
1836			553147	547986	
1837			207121	45080	
1838		7200	286588	47030	
1839		38248	118143	27021	
1840		47338	137382	18859	
1841		63131	15833		
1842		81507	27578	2823	
1843		75462	611205	100546	
1844		6361	340370	6784	
1845		26153	417099	91051	
1846		20095	395942	21598	
1847		862264	919781	29814	
1848		145484	260775	8886	
1849		653618	133070	23294	688567
1850 to Oct. 31	784270	291451	64491	180603	309055
Total	784,270	2,450,904	7,662,091	1,460,409	997,622

Statement of Coinage at the Mints, &c (continued)

1. Mint of the United States, at Philadelphia (continued)

Silver Coinage

Periods	Dollars	Half-dollars	Quarter-dollars	Dimes	Half Dimes
	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces
1793 1794 1795	204791	323144			86416
1796	72920	3918	5894	22135	10230
1797	7776		252	25261	44527
1798	327536			27550	
1799	423515				
1800	220920			21760	24000
1801	54454	30289		34640	33910
1802	41650	29890		10975	13010
1803	66064	31715		33040	37850
1804	19570	156519	6738	8265	
1805	321	211722	121394	120780	15600
1806		839576	206124		
1807		1,051576	220643	165000	
1808		1,368600			
1809		1,405810		44710	
1810		1,276276		6355	
1811		1,203644		65180	
1812		1,628059			
1813		1,241903			
1814		1,039075		421500	
1815		—	69232		
1816		47150	20003		
1817		1,215567			
1818		1,960322	361174		
1819		2,208000	144000		
1820		751122	127444	942587	
1821		1,305797	216851	1,186512	
1822		1,559573	64080	100000	
1823		1,694200	17800	440000	
1824		3,504954			
1825		2,943166	168000	510000	
1826		4,004180			
1827		5,493400	4000	1,215000	
1828		3,075200	102000	125000	
1829		3,712156		770000	1,230000
1830		4,764800		510000	1,240000
1831		5,873660	398000	771350	1,242700
1832		4,797000	320000	522500	965000
1833		5,206000	156000	485000	1,370000
1834		6,412004	286000	635000	1,480000
1835		5,352006	1,952000	1,410000	2,760000
1836	1000	6,546200	472000	1,190000	1,900000
1837		3,629820	252400	1,042000	2,276000
1838		3,546000	832000	1,992500	2,255000
1839	300	3,334561	491146	1,053115	1,069150
1840	61005	1,435008	188127	1,358580	1,344085
1841	173000	310000	120000	1,622500	1,150000
1842	184618	2,012764	88000	1,887500	815000
1843	165100	3,844000	645600	1,370000	1,165000
1844	20000	1,766000	421200	72500	430000
1845	24500	589000	922000	1,755000	1,564000
1846	110600	2,210000	510000	31300	27000
1847	140750	1,156000	734000	245000	1,274000
1848	15000	580000	146000	451500	668000
1849	62600	1,252000	340000	839000	1,309000
1850 to Oct. 31	7500	227000	124000	1,641500	665000
Total	2,405,490	110,160,326	11,254102	27,182,095	28,464,478

Statement of Coinage at the Mints, &c. (continued)

1. Mint of the United States at Philadelphia (continued)

Copper Coinage			Total								
Periods	Cents	Half Cents	Pieces coined	Value of Gold		Value of Silver		Value of Copper		Value of Coinage	
	pieces	pieces	number	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts
1793 1794 1795	1,066033	142,534	1,834,420	71,485		370,683	80	11,373	00	453,541	80
1796	974700	115,480	1,219370	102,727	50	79,077	50	10,324	40	192129	40
1797	897510	107,048	1,095,165	103,422	50	12,591	45	9,510	34	125,524	29
1798	979700		1,368,241	205,610	00	330,29[illegible]	00	9,797	00	545,698	00
1799	904585	12,167	1,365,681	213,285	00	423,515	00	9,106	68	645,906	68
1800	2,822175	211,530	3,337,972	317,760	00	224,296	00	29,279	40	571335	40
1801	1,362,837		1,571,390	422,570	00	74,758	00	13,628	37	510,956	37
1802	3,435,100	14,366	3,615,869	423,310	00	58343	00	34,422	83	516,075	83
1803	2,471,353	97,900	2,780,830	258,377	50	87,118	00	25,203	03	370,698	53
1804	756,838	1,055,312	2,046,839	258,642	50	100,340	50	12844	94	371,827	94
1805	941,116	814,464	2,260,361	170,367	50	149,388	50	13,483	48	333,239	48
1806	348,000	356,000	1,815,409	324,505	00	471319	00	5,260	00	801,084	00
1807	727,221	476,000	2,731,345	437,495	00	597,448	75	9,652	21	1,044,595	96
1808	1,109,000	400,000	2,935,888	284,665	00	684,300	00	13090	00	982,055	00
1809	222,867	1,154,572	2,861,834	169,375	00	707,376	00	8,001	53	884752	53
1810	1,458500	215,000	3,056,418	501,435	00	638,773	50	15,660	00	1,155,868	50
1811	218025	63,140	1,649,570	497,905	00	608,340	00	2,495	95	1,108,740	95
1812	1,075,500		2,761,646	290,435	00	814,029	50	10,755	00	1,115,219	50
1813	418,000		1,755,331	477,140	00	620,951	50	4,180	00	1,102,271	50
1814	357,830		1,833,859	77,270	00	561,687	50	3,578	30	642,535	80
1815	—		69,867	3,175	00	17308	00			20483	00
1816	2,820,982		2,888,135			28,575	75	28,209	82	56,785	57
1817	3,948,400		5,163,967			607,783	50	39,484	00	647,267	50
1818	3,167,000		5,537,084	242,940	00	1,070,454	50	31,670	00	1,345,064	50
1819	2,671,000		5,074,723	258,615	00	1,140,000	00	26,710	00	1,425,325	00
1820	4,407,550		6,492,509	1,319,030	00	501,680	70	44,075	50	1,864,786	20
1821	389,000		3,139,249	189,325	00	825,762	45	3,890	00	1,018,977	45
1822	2,072,339		3,813,788	88,980	00	805,806	50	20,723	39	915,509	89
1823			2,166,485	72,425	00	895,550	00			967,975	00
1824	1,262,000		4,786,894	93,200	00	1,752,477	00	12,620	00	1,858,297	00
1825	1,461,100	63,000	5,178,760	156,385	00	1,564,583	00	14,926	00	1,735,894	00
1826	1,517,425	234,000	5,774,434	92,245	00	2,002,090	00	16,344	25	2,110,679	25
1827	2,357732		9,097,845	131,565	00	2,869,200	00	23,577	32	3,024,342	32
1828	2,260,624	606,000	6,196,853	140,145	00	1,575,600	00	25,636	24	1,741,381	24
1829	1,414,500	487,000	7,674,501	295,717	50	1,994,578	00	16,580	00	2,306,875	50
1830	1,711500		8,357,191	643,105	00	2,495,400	00	17,115	00	3,155,620	00
1831	3,359,260	2,200	11,792,284	714,270	00	3,175,600	00	33,603	60	3,923,473	60
1832	2,362,000		9,128,387	798,435	00	2,579,000	00	23,620	00	3,401,055	00
1833	2,739,000	154,000	10,307,790	978,550	00	2,759,000	00	28160	00	3,765,710	00
1834	1,855,100	120,000	11,637,643	3,954,270	00	3,415,002	00	19,151	00	7,388,423	00
1835	3,878,400	141,000	15,996,342	2,186,175	00	3,443,003	00	39,489	00	5,668,667	00
1836	2,111,000	398,000	13,719,333	4,135,700	00	3,606100	00	23,100	00	7,764,900	00
1837	5,558,300		13,010,721	1,148,305	00	2096010	00	55,583	00	3,299,898	00
1838	6,370,200		15,336,518	1,622,515	00	2,293000	00	63,702	00	3,979,217	00
1839	3,128661		9,260,345	1,040,747	50	1,949,136	00	31286	61	3,021,170	11
1840	2,462,700		7,053,084	1,207,437	50	1,028,603	00	24,627	00	2,260,667	50
1841	1,597367		5,051,831	710,475	00	577,750	00	15,973	67	1,304,198	67
1842	2,383,390		7,483,180	960,017	50	1,442,500	00	23,833	90	2,426,351	40
1843	2,428,320		10,405,233	4,062,010	00	2,443750	00	24,283	20	6,530,043	20
1844	2,397752		5,460,967	1,782,420	00	1,037,050	00	23,977	52	2,843,447	52
1845	3,894,804		9,283607	2,574,652	50	803,200	00	38,948	04	3,416,800	54
1846	4,120800		7,447,335	2,234,655	00	1,347,580	00	41,208	00	3,623,443	00
1847	6,183669		11,545,278	13,296,080	00	990,450	00	61,836	69	14,348,366	69
1848	6,415,799		8,691,444	2,780,930	00	420,050	00	64,157	99	3,265,137	99
1849	4,178,500	39,864	9,519,513	7,948,332	00	922,950	00	41,984	32	8,913,266	32
1850 to Oct. 31	3,136,917	39,812	7,471,599	19,682,927	50	349,400	00	31,568	23	[illegible]	
Total	124,569,981	7,520,389	324,912,157	83,153,539	50	64,440,611	90	1,283,301	75	148,877,453	15

Statement of Coinage, &c. at the Mints (continued)

2. Branch Mint at New Orleans.

Gold Coinage

Periods	Double-Eagles	Eagles	Half-Eagles	Quarter Eagles	Gold Dollars
	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces
1838					
1839				17,346	
1840			32,500	26,200	
1841		4,500	6,350	7,180	
1842		27,300	16,400	19,800	
1843		175,062	179,075	290,002	
1844		118,700	364,600		
1845		47,500	41,000		
1846		81,780	58,000	66,000	
1847		571,500	12,000	124,000	
1848		35,850			
1849		23,900			215,000
1850 to Oct. 31	97,500	57,500		82,000	
Total	97,500	1,143,592	709,925	632,528	215,000

Silver Coinage

Periods	Dollars	Half Dollars	Quarter dollars	Dimes	Half Dimes
	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces
1838				205,000	35,000
1839		115,000		690,000	460,000
1840		815,000	426,100	1,241,000	909,000
1841		367,000	452,500	2,007,500	815,000
1842		957,000	769,000	1,950,000	350,000
1843		2,268,000	518,000	150,000	
1844		2,005,000	740,000		220,000
1845		2,094,000		230,000	
1846	59,000	2,304,000			
1847		2,584,000	368,000		
1848		3,180,000			600,000
1849		2,310,000		300,000	140,000
1850 to Oct. 31	40,000	1,898,000	312,000	440,000	500,000
Total	~~59,000~~ 99,000	20,897,000	3,585,600	7,213,500	4,029,000

Total

Periods	Pieces coined	Value of Gold		Value of Silver		Value of Coinage	
	number	Dollars	cts	Dollars	cts	Dollars.	Cts.
1838	240,000			22,250	00	22,250	00
1839	1,282,346	43,365	00	149,500	00	192,865	00
1840	3,449,800	228,000	00	683,575	00	911,575	00
1841	3,660,030	94,700	00	538,125	00	632,825	00
1842	4,089,500	404,500	00	883,250	00	1,287,750	00
1843	3,580,139	3,371,000	00	1,278,500	00	4,649,500	00
1844	3,448,300	3,010,000	00	1,198,500	00	4,208,500	00
1845	2,412,500	680,000	00	1,070,000	00	1,750,000	00
1846	2,568,780	1,272,800	00	1,211,000	00	2,483,800	00
1847	3,659,500	6,085,000	00	1,384,000	00	7,469,000	00
1848	3,815,850	358,500	00	1,620,000	00	1,978,500	00
1849	2,988,900	454,000	00	1,192,000	00	1,646,000	00
1850 to Oct. 31	3,427,000	2,730,000	00	1,136,000	00	3,866,000	00
Total	38,622,645	18,731,865	00	12,366,700	00	31,098,565	00

Statement of Coinage at the Mints, &c. (continued)

		Gold Coinage			Total		
	Period	Half-Eagles	Quarter Eagles	Dollars	Pieces coined	Value of Coinage	
		Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Number	Dollars	Cts
3. Branch Mint, Charlotte, N. C.	1838	12,886	7,894		20,780	84,165	00
	1839	23,467	18,173		41,640	162,767	50
	1840	18,994	12,834		31,828	127,055	00
	1841	21,467	10,281		31,748	133,037	50
	1842	27,480	8,642		36,122	159,005	00
	1843	44,353	26,096		70,449	287,005	00
	1844	23,631	11,622		35,253	147,210	00
	1845						
	1846	12,995	4,808		17,803	76,995	00
	1847	84,151	23,226		107,377	478,820	00
	1848	64,472	16,788		81,260	364,330	00
	1849	64,823	10,220	11,634	86,677	361,299	00
	1850 to Oct. 31	46,905	9,148	6,966	63,019	264,361	00
	Total	445,624	159,732	18,600	623,956	2,646,050	00
4. Branch Mint, at Dahlonega, Geo.	1838	20,583			20,583	102,915	00
	1839	18,939	13,674		32,613	128,880	00
	1840	23,896	3,532		27,428	128,310	00
	1841	30,695	4,164		34,859	163,885	00
	1842	59,608	4,643		64,251	309,647	50
	1843	98,450	36,209		134,659	582,772	50
	1844	89,054	17,332		106,386	488,600	00
	1845	90,629	19,460		110,089	501,795	00
	1846	80,294	19,303		99,597	449,727	50
	1847	64,405	15,784		80,189	361,485	00
	1848	47,465	13,771		61,236	271,752	50
	1849	39,036	10,945	21,588	71,569	244,130	50
	1850 to Oct. 31	37,334	9,175	7,158	53,667	216,765	50
	Total	700,388	167,992	28,746	897,126	3,950,666	00

Summary Statement of the Coinage of the Mint & Branches, to Oct. 31, 1850, inclusive.

Mints	Commencement of Coinage	Gold Coinage		Silver Coinage		Copper Coinage		Entire Coinage		
		Value		Value		Value		Pieces	Value	
		Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	Number	Dollars	Cts
Philadelphia	1793	83,153,539	50	64,440,611	90	1,283,301	75	324,912,157	148,877,453	15
New Orleans	1838	18,731,865	00	12,366,700	00	. . . . .		38,622,645	31,098,565	00
Charlotte	1838	2,646,050	00	. . . .		. . . .		623,956	2,646,050	00
Dahlonega	1838	3,950,666	00	. . . .		. . . .		897,126	3,950,666	
	Total	108,482,120	50	76,807,311	90	1,283,301	75	365,055,884	186,572,734	15

Statement of the amount of Gold deposited at the Mint of the United States and its Branches, from mines in the United States to Oct. 31st, 1850.

1. Deposited at the United States Mint

Periods	Virginia	North Carolina	South Carolina	Georgia	Tennessee	Alabama	New Mexico	California	Various Sources	Total
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
1824		5,000								5,000
1825		17,000								17,000
1826		20,000								20,000
1827		21,000								21,000
1828		46,000								46,000
1829	2,500	134,000	3500							140,000
1830	24,000	204,000	26,000	212,000						466,000
1831	26,000	294,000	22,000	176,000	1,000				1,000	520,000
1832	34,000	458,000	45,000	140,000	1,000					678,000
1833	104,000	475,000	66,000	216,000	7,000					868,000
1834	62,000	380,000	38000	415,000	3,000					898,000
1835	60,400	263,500	42,400	319,900	100				12,200	698,500
1836	62,000	148,100	55,200	201,400	300					467,000
1837	52,100	116,900	29,400	83,600						282,000
1838	55,000	66,000	13,000	36,000	1,500				200	171,700
1839	57,600	53,500	6,300	20,300	300	500				138,500
1840	38,995	36,804	5,319	91,113	104	4431				176,766
1841	25,736	76,431	3,440	139,796	1,212	1,863				248,478
1842	42,163	61,629	223	150,276		5,579			13,717	273,587
1843	48,148	62,873	5,099	56,619	2,788	4,786			415	180,728
1844	40,595	194,917	11,856	30,739	2,240	12,298			2,377	295,022
1845	86,783	365,886	5,386	17,325	3,202	6,472			4,328	489,382
1846	55,538	286,105	100,641	13,601	2,642	7,542				466,069
1847	67,736	99,491	1,102	10,547	2,511	2,022				183,409
1848	57,886	109,034	19,228	3,370	3,497	3,670	682	44,177		241,544
1849	129,382	102,688	4,309	10,525	2,739	2,977	32,889	5,481,439	144	5,767,092
1850 10 months	65,276	40,558	759	4,938	307	1,178	5,392	22,671,083	326	22,789,817
Total	1,197,838	4,138,416	504,162	2,349,049	35,442	53,318	38,963	28,196,699	34,707	36,548,594

Gold, deposited at the Mints. (Continued)

Statement of United States Gold, deposited at the Mints. (Continued)

2. Deposited at the Branch Mint, New Orleans.

Periods	Virginia	N. Carolina	S. Carolina	Georgia	Tennessee	Alabama	New Mexico	California	Various Sources	Total
1838			150	368						518
1839				6,997					1,258	8,255
1840				211		480			2,355	3,046
1841			39			1778				1,817
1842				1732		1,126				2,858
1843				11,042		7,665				18,707
1844			425	6,439	111	17,188				24,163
1845			10,257	1,620	1395	17,181				30,453
1846		741	3,148	8,154		10,171				22,214
1847			287	801	266	6,314				7,668
1848			1488	2317	947	6,717		1,124		12,593
1849			423			4,062		669,921	2,783	677,189
1850 10 months						3560		2,940,310		2,943,870
Total	–	741	16,217	39,681	2,719	76,242	–	3,611,355	6,396	3,753,351
3. Deposited at the Branch Mint, Dahlonega, Geo.										
1838		2058	3087	95,198	1029	1543				102,915
1839		2,577	3,766	119,366	1288	1883				128,880
1840		2,566	3,849	118,688	1283	1924				128,310
1841		3,276	4,914	151,600	1638	2457				163,885
1842		6,192	9,288	286,428	3096	4644				309,648
1843		11,654	17,481	539,070	5827	8740				582,772
1844		9,772	14,658	457,955	4886	7329				488,600
1845		10,034	15,051	464,168	5,017	7525				501,795
1846		8,994	13,491	416000	4,497	6745				449,727
1847		7,228	9,842	335880	3,614	4921				361,485
1848		5,434	8,151	257376	2717	4075				271753
1849		4,882	7,323	225,824	2441	3661				244131
1850 10 months		4320	5,400	174,320	1080	1620		30,025		216,765
Total	–	78,987	116,301	3,629,873	38,413	57,067	–	30,025	–	3,950,666

Statement of United States Gold deposited at the Mints (Continued)

4. Deposited at the Branch Mint, Charlotte N.C.

Periods	Virginia	N. Carolina	S. Carolina	Georgia	Tennessee	Alabama	New Mexico	California	Various sources	Total
1838		106,179	35,520							131699
1839		110,397	16,439							126,836
1840		120,630	6,955							127585
1841		110,766	21,821							132,587
1842		168,682	5,725							174407
1843		240,095	31,969							272,064
1844		156,990	10360							167,350
1845										
1846		196381								196381
1847		319657	25152							344809
1848		359,075	11710							370,785
1849		378,223	12509							390732
1850		222,239	12852							235091
		2,489,314	181,012							2,670,326

Summary Statement of the deposites of domestic gold at the Mint of the United States & Branches, to Oct. 31, 1850.

Mints	Virginia	N. Carolina	S. Carolina	Georgia	Tennessee	Alabama	New Mexico	California	Various sources	Total
Philadelphia	1,197,838	4,138,416	504,162	2,349,049	35442	53,318	38,963	28,196,699	34,707	36548,594
New Orleans		741	16,217	39,661	2,719	76,242		3,611355	6,396	3,753351
Charlotte		2,489,314	181012							2,670326
Dahlonega		78987	116301	3,629,873	38413	57,067		30,025		3,950,666
Total	1,197,838	6,707,458	817,692	6,018,603	76,574	186,627	38963	31,838,079	41103	46,922,937

Expenses of the Mint & Branches to Oct. 31, 1850.

1. Philadelphia Mint

Periods	Expenditure		Periods	Expenditure	
	Dollars	cts		Dollars	cts
1794	23,799	22	Continued	756,385	57
1795	13,000	00	1823	14,139	12
1796	50,150	90	1824	29,469	76
1797	14,000	00	1825	19,651	64
1798	7,000	00	1826	34,068	27
1799	26,672	93	1827	40,588	86
1800	32,481	43	1828	29,282	35
1801	35,154	44	1829	34,265	00
1802	37,766	09	1830	32,430	00
1803	19,572	20	1831	85,328	13
1804	36,874	42	1832	101,495	00
1805	9,335	08	1833	51,134	22
1806	9,104	48	1834	73,340	00
1807	31,721	85	1835	182,956	00
1808	14,234	00	1836	322,600	00
1809	25,634	00	1837	211,242	58
1810	12,158	36	1838	121,215	22
1811	28,999	96	1839	128,319	17
1812	17,975	80	1840	127,029	30
1813	16,804	62	1841	76,401	94
1814	11,988	17	1842	87,782	87
1815	23,644	44	1843 to June 30	33,020	00
1816	45,379	85	1843-4	78,875	00
1817	38,500	00	1844-5	100,087	00
1818	42,608	33	1845-6	92,771	50
1819	36,975	00	1846-7	89,972	97
1820	31,850	00	1847-8	76,850	00
1821	45,850	00	1848-9	88,050	00
1822	17,150	00	1849-50 to Sept. 31	184,909	45
Continued	756,385	57	Total	3,303,660	92

Expenses of the Mints (continued)

Periods	New Orleans Mint		Charlotte Mint		Dahlonega Mint	
	Expenditure		Expenditure		Expenditure	
	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts
1837	7,679	60			9,506	97
1838	87,163	48	16,836	30	14,920	55
1839	69,227	50	14,590	28	11,265	05
1840	63,674	18	13,875	17	10,490	70
1841	52,819	92	11,525	95	8,651	84
1842	49,769	07	11,070	86	9,831	38
1843	52,319	10	11,221	41	10,765	63
1844	58,541	04	10,471	95	10,580	63
1845	54,380	46	3,767	50	10,938	45
1846	52,129	69	7,839	53	12,753	93
1847	50,946	82	11,358	46	11,562	60
1848	54,027	90	11,238	56	10,531	50
1849	61,691	57	11,529	02	10,338	62
1850	64,867	09	8,638	16	8,668	20
Total	779,237	42	143,963	15	150,806	05

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, Nov. 20, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to you the Official Bonds of A. W. Redding Superintendent, and Matthew F. Stephenson assayer, of the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, — with my approbation, and the grounds on which it is founded.

Very respectfully
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

R. M. Patterson,
Director U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia,
Nov 20, 1850.

Mint of the United States
23 Nov. 1850

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 18th inst, enclosing a slip from the New York Express, censuring the practise of making medals in the Mint, & in reply to the President's request, indicated by you, that the matter should be investigated, I beg leave to present the following explanations.

It may be stated, first, that the engraving & striking of medals, national or private, has no place in our code of Mint Laws, & of course forms no part of the functions of the Mint.

In the next place, it is obvious that the making of medals is an art not to be looked for, at least not in any perfection, in a new country, or in a country where the arts are comparatively in their infancy. Consequently, until within a very recent date, there has always been some difficulty in ~~effec~~ executing orders of this kind from Congress, or from the departments of War & the Navy, or other sources. At first the dies were engraved in France; afterwards we had to avail ourselves of the aid of a very moderate artist from Europe, who resided here awhile, and eventually went back again for want of employment; and subsequently to this attempts were made to accomplish the object by a larger use & combination of mechanical means, such as the electrotype & portrait lathe.

But beyond the difficulty of procuring suitable dies, there was no facility in the country, except at the Mint, for the various mechanical but critical operations requisite for striking the medal. Consequently the departments have, hitherto, always put this work into the hands of the Chief Coiner of the Mint, & paid him for attending to it. And at various times that officer has obtained permission to do the same thing for states, corporations, & individuals.

Within a very recent period, we may say three or four years, this branch of art has received a forward impulse, and we have now, especially in New York and Boston, medal engravers whose productions are honorable to themselves and the country. It would seem from the allegations in this printed article, that these artists are perfectly qualified, also, to prepare the planchets & strike the medals. Without yielding the question of superiority, or facilities in that respect; it may be suggested that the friends of those gentlemen, instead of using anonymous newspaper attacks, should have applied at once to the departments for the next job of this kind. As it is, & to obviate the jealousies which seem to have originated these attacks, it is a very proper subject for considerration, whether, as a medal of President Fillmore is now due, the preparation of the die should not be given for competition amongst artists, in which case the striking of the medals may be, as heretofore, confided to the Chief Coiner of the Mint, or to the Engraver of the dies, as may be preferred. The Departments could then judge whether a change of this kind would be advantageous.

In the last place, as it is competent for the Secretary of the Treasury to forbid the further striking of private medals, or to allow it under specific restrictions, that subject is respectfully referred to his decision. I think it proper, however, to state, in view of the charges alleged of a personal gain to the Chief Coiner from his official position, that I have his assurance in a written memorandum which he has presented to me on this subject, that "the use of the machinery is all the advantage accruing to him, and does not in any way interfere with the usual Mint operations."

I have only further to add, in proof that there is no disposition in the Mint to exclude competent assistance in the making of medals, when obtainable, that at the suggestion of the Chief Coiner, Mr Wright of New York was recommended by me to the Department as the artist to execute the dies for the Scott & Taylor (Buena Vista) medals, and also for the medal lately ordered for assistance rendered at the wreck of the Somers. When the first Taylor medal was executed Mr. Wright was unknown to us.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of the Treasury

Nov. 11. 50

No 389 Dec 17
New Orleans

Mint of the United States
25 Nov. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a statement of the operations of the Mint during the preceding month.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Private

College of New Jersey
Princeton Nov.r 26. 1850

My dear Sir,

In relation to the question of a mint in New York the following statements and views are respectfully presented to you.

There now stands in Philadelphia, in 7th Street between Market and Arch, a three story brick house, 50 feet by 30, known to the citizens as "the old Mint"; in which all the coining of the United States, for forty years, from 1791 to 1831, was done.

If a building of the ordinary kind be rented or purchased in New York, the machinery can be made in the large workshops of that city, and the mint go into full operation within six months after the appropriation shall have been made.

A large edifice such as that in Philadelphia would probably cost $200,000 @ $300,000, and it would require two or three years for its construction. Let such a structure be built, but meanwhile efficient coining facilities are needed in New York, and they may be accorded by using a temporary building.

An appropriation of $200,000 would put the requisite machinery into a suitable building & give *double* the coining power of the Philada. Mint, — equal power would cost ~~$200~~, $150,000.

To carry into effect the preceding views, it may be necessary that an amendment to the Senate bill, now before the House, be introduced by the friends of that measure.

I respectfully invite your attention to the fact that to coin small gold pieces (dollars and quarter-eagles, especially) in large proportion, and to suppress as much as practicable the coinage of eagles & double eagles, which do but take the place of bank notes, must at the present time greatly tend to preserve in our country the relative values of gold and silver. The latter of which metals is not only already at a premium, but rapidly becoming more & more scarce, by our extending & multiplying population, by exportation, by the increasing manufacture & demand for silver spoons, forks, plate, &c., (for which the silversmiths use U.S. coin as the raw material), by the higher value of silver in other countries, and by a *decreasing* & disproportionate supply.

It is undeniable that the Philada. Mint cannot perform the work of coining silver and small gold coins, now required to relieve an increasing scarcity, and at the same time manufacture with despatch into eagles or double eagles, the large quantities of California gold arriving at New York.

Permit me to commend to your favorable consideration the establishment of a mint in California, also of aſsay offices there, and the bill of the Hon. W. Gwin of the Senate authorizing the manufacture of large gold coins, $100 @ $10,000, referred to the Committee of Finance; — all of which are, in my opinion, highly important and desirable measures.

The multiplication of branch mints, & the creation of aſsay offices in California, together with matters relating to the developement of the gold industry, &c. &c., must render the present organization & mode of administration by a Director in Philada., operated upon by local feelings and interests, more & more imperfect, inadequate & unsatisfactory to the head of the Treasury Department, of which the Mint & its branches are a *quasi* bureau. There ought to be, in my opinion, at Washington, a bureau of the Mints, charged with the fabrication of the dies & of the national medals, also with aſsaying *constantly* specimens of coins received from the different mints, and with that general supervision & control which is now devolved upon the Director at Philada., who should be transferred to Washington, and made head of bureau.

For reasons apart from all extension and modification, I entertain the opinion I have just expressed, and regard the present Mint System of our country as radically defective. I will communicate those reasons to you fully at another time; for the present, I will simply say that all the old gold coinage of the United States, done at Philadelphia, which should have been of the fineness 22 carats, or 91,$\frac{66}{100}$ per cent was but 91,$\frac{4}{10}$ per cent, being a debasement of 1/4 ths of a per cent below the legal Standard; and the Mint now receives those coins only at 91.$\frac{4}{10}$ per cent. In the files of the Treasury Department for the year 1848, you should find a report of the assay commissioners ~~for~~, who met at Philada in February, in obedience to Sect. 32 of an Act of Cong. approved Jany 18. 1837, and their communication to the President, setting forth that the $7000,000, in gold, coined at New Orleans in 1847, was debased to the extent of one fifth of a per cent, 89,8 instead of 90,0 per cent the legal Standard. You should also find therein a correspondence between the Director of the Mint & the Government confirming all that the assay commissioners had detected, and it will also appear that the melter & refiner at New Orleans was subsequently removed from office.

McKean

I have written to you, my dear Sir, in all freedom and frankness - I will only say I have no desire or willingness ever again to be in the public service, of which I have had enough, more than enough in anxious toil & responsibility - I am in a position more appropriate, engaged in duties more congenial, and more in the line of my profession.

Very respy, yr friend & ob. Ser

Hon. Thos C

Richd S. McCulloh

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Nov. 30, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose the Official Bond of Robert H. Moore Coiner of the Branch Mint at Dahlonega, with my approbation, and the grounds on which it is founded.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin.
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, November 30, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor of presenting the following statements connected with the coinage at this Mint during the month which has just closed.

Gold Coins.

The kind of Coin.	The number.	The Value.
Double-Eagles.	196,170.	$3,923,400.
Quarter Eagles.	27,320.	68,300.
Gold dollars.	94,800.	94,800.
		$4,086,500.

Silver Coins.

Dimes.	175,000.	17,500.
	Total	$4,104,000.

This result exceeds any one yet reached at the Mint in any previous month.

The value of the gold deposited for coinage during the present month is estimated at $4,250,000, and exceeds the amount deposited in any former month, by about a million of dollars.

Very respectfully, your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
3 Decr. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of yesterday, calling my attention to an error in the tables of coinage lately sent to you. It arose from omitting to enter, in the coinage of the present year at the N. O. Branch Mint, 40,000 pieces in silver dollars. The aggregate of the dollar column is therefore 99,000.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

U. States Branch Mint
Charlotte N. Ca 5th Decemr 1850

Sir

I have the honor to request, that you will cause your Warrant to issue in favor of Dr R. M. Patterson, Director of the Mint, Phila for Three Hundred Dollars under the Item of appropriation for Contingent & Incidental Expenses of the Branch Mint at Charlotte N. Ca $300.00

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
James W Osborne
Superintendent

Hon: Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

Sec. of Treasury

Mint of the United States
3 Dec^r. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 30th ult. in which you state the receipt of my letter of the 28th with Statistics relating to the deposites, coinage &c at the Mints, and request me to bring down the statement as to the amount of Gold of United States production to the close of Nov. 30th.

It is with regret that I have to state that it is out of my power to give this information. of The deposites made at this Mint during the last week, probably over $1,000,000 are not yet assayed & calculated, so that the register of Nov. still remains incomplete. From the Branch Mints I do not expect reports till about the middle of the month. At New Orleans, in particular some days must elapse after the close of a month before the report can be prepared for me.

In a general way I may state that the deposites of United States gold at this Mint, during November will probably reach $4,350,000, only a few thousand dollars of which is not California. At New Orleans they will receive, I suppose, about $400,000 of the same bullion. The smaller Mints receive about $30,000 monthly of Southern gold.

Very respectfully, Your faithful Servt
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Thos Corwin,
Sec. of Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
3 Decr. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, making inquiries as to the amount of bullion & foreign coin received at the Mint from New York, distinguishing in such as was transferred on Government account, & stating the cost of such transfer, for the year ending 30 Oct. 1850.

Our register of deposites does not enable us to state, with certainty the direction by which they are forwarded to the Mint. During the year to which you have referred, however, inasmuch as by far the largest part of our deposites was in California gold, which is brought to the country in the New York line of steamers, we know to a great extent the direction from which most of our bullion was derived. The bullion of the Southern States we may be equally certain was not received through New York. Of the foreign coins & bullion constituting the remaining items of our deposites, we know that a certain proportion was derived from the Assistant Treasury in New York, but the source of the balance cannot be ascertained. It is probable, however, that the most of it has been sent from that city.

The annexed statement, founded on the above data, is the nearest approximation which can be made towards the information you desire.

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thos Corwin,
Sec. of Treasury.

Statement of the amount of foreign coin received at the Mint, for recoinage, on Government account, viâ New York, during the year ending 30 Oct. 1850, with the cost of transportation

Foreign coin received	$379,028
American do	325,355
whole amount received	$704,383
Cost of transportation of whole amount	$264.

Statement of Gold & Silver bullion & coins received at the Mint of the United States, during the year ending Oct 30, 1850, with an estimate of the amount sent via New york

The total California Gold received during the above period was	$25,000,572	
of which there is supposed to have been received from other sources than New york	1,000,572	
Total Cal^a. gold received via New york		$24,000,000
Southern gold received	156,386	
From sources other than New york, say	150,000	
Derived through New york		6,386
Foreign coins & bullion received in gold	1,494,493	
From other sources than New york	594,493	
Derived through New york, viz		
from Assist. Try $379,028		
other sources 520,972		900,000
Total silver deposites during above period	$635,262	
Supposed to have been derived from other sources than New york	300,000	
Derived through New york, viz.		
Silver in California Gold $176,229		
Other silver 159,033		335,262
Total deposites derived from New york		$25,241,648
do do other directions		2,045,065
Total amount deposited		27,286,713

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, December 7, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to send enclosed the Official Bond and Oath of Office of James C. Booth, Melter and Refiner of the Mint of the United States; the course being followed according to the instructions given by the Comptroller of the Treasury.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
16 Dec. 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 14th inst, relative to a supply of small silver for the Post Office at New York, and also in reference to the experiments in refining gold requested in your letter of the 10th Sept. last.

The deficiency in silver coin of which the New York postmaster has complained, is very general throughout the country, & grows out of a rise in the price of silver which has made it profitable for export. I believe this to be occasioned by circumstances temporary in their nature; but as long as it continues, it is manifest that whatever supply of silver coin may be furnished at the Mint will be withdrawn from circulation & sent out of the country.

While therefore I fear that the evils complained of are not the subject of correction by the Mint, I add that we are prepared to furnish Silver Coin, to a reasonable amount, in exchange for such silver deposites as we are entitled legally to receive. We have no authority to make exchanges of American coin for American coin; but only for ~~foreign~~ bullion or foreign coin which may be made the subject of Coinage.

The deputy postmasters not having it in their power to make the deposites indicated, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of the Postmaster General purchasing a considerable supply of foreign silver, say Mexican dollars, and depositing the same for coinage. The coins, when ready, might be paid into our Assistant Treasury, & be subject to draft at such times & for such amounts as the wants of the postmasters may render expedient.

The experiments in refining which you requested me to have made, were committed by me to the Melter & Refiner of the Mint, whose personal interest in a favorable issue gave me an assurance that every attention would be given to the matter. Numerous experiments have been made, but the results, in his opinion, are "not yet sufficiently satisfactory to make a report to you upon their merits". He supposes, however, that in a few weeks an opinion may be formed upon the value of the new processes.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of the Treasury.

Washington Decr. 23d. 1850

Sir,

A rapid, cheap and valuable method of refining gold, by the use of zinc &c; having been discovered & perfected by me, and the requisite steps to secure to myself the right thereto, by letters patent of the United States, having been duly taken, I addreſsed a letter, on the 11th of February, 1850 to the Director of the Mint (copy whereof marked A is enclosed), in which I informed him, that I had discovered a much more economical, convenient and efficient proceſs for refining gold than that employed in the Mint, or any other known method; and offered to sell to the United States the right to use the same in the Mint. To that letter, contrary to my expectation, I received no reply.

On the 1st of July 1850, I addreſsed a letter to the Hon. W. M. Meredith, then Secretary of the Treasury, informing him of the aforesaid discovery, and of its importance, as a means of relieving the Treasury from making unneceſsarily large and protracted advances for the accomodation of the depositors of bullion, and reducing the Mint charges for refining to said depositors; — also, that an outlay of $1000 would probably cover the cost of the alterations and apparatus requisite to enable the Mint at Philadelphia to refine ten millions of dollars, per month. In this letter, (of which a copy marked B is herewith furnished), any further information was proffered, and the right to use said method was offered to the Government for an equitable consideration.

On the 5th of July, I memorialized Congreſs in relation to my discovery, and announced my willingneſs to grant the right to use it in the Mint and its branches, either for a just sum in gross, or a fair share of the saving to be effected by the use thereof. And having stated in said memorial, copy of which is enclosed, that I had addressed a communication to the Secretary of the Treasury upon the subject, I caused it to be published in the Union of July 10th 1850.

In a letter addressed to me, at Washington, and dated July 9th 1850, (of which I enclose a copy marked C), the melter and refiner of the Mint at Philadelphia, Prof. James C. Booth, informed me that he had every reason to believe he had been pursuing the method of refining invented by me, and that he had written a letter to me at Princeton upon the subject, proposing to unite his method to mine, not knowing them to be the same; (Of which letter, dated June 29th, a copy marked D is enclosed); also, that he had said to the Director of the Mint, when a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, concerning my abovementioned communication of July 1st was shown to him, that he had been working with my method, and "would value it very highly, say $50,000 for the United States, or possibly double that amount". He advised me to guard my patent, on one point, to prevent infringement; and offered to assist me, by giving an opinion of my method, saying: "I can give a full opinion on it, for I have worked it all out in detail on large quantities of metal."

After having written as above, Prof. Booth, in a letter to me dated Augt 13th, informed me that he had attempted to refine $100,000 of gold with zinc; part of which gold had "proved so brittle after melting", that he was "at a loss what to do with it." That he had "no time to experiment with the gold," and was "so disappointed with the results"; that, in company with C. Morfit Esq, he had been "working

out another proceſs of refining on different principles" a
"believed would be very ſucceſsful."

In a letter to me, dated Aug. 16th, Prof. J. C. Booth says o
method: "there were serious objections in the way of its
"I have now entirely obviated and rendered the proceſs
"easy of execution, safe from loſs of gold or silver, a
"cheapest yet devised." And he adds: "our proceſses
nearly on a par that it would be for our mutual
not to compete." Believing that it would be wise to
the two methods and dispose of them both to the Governm
upon the same terms originally offered by me for mine
I proposed to Prof. Booth and announced my willingneſs t
such a union, as soon as he should make known to
confidentially, the details of his proceſs.

While Prof. Booth's application for letters patent was
he declined to make any such confidential disclos
to me as I deemed prerequisite to our union; and,
his Counsel, he memorialized Congreſs and invoked
attention of the Treasury Department to the subject o
invention. The Director of the Mint also addreſsed
Commiſsioner of Patents a letter, ~~addreſsed~~ dated
Sept. 1851, urging prompt attention to said appli
as a measure of great importance to the interests of
and particularly desirable to permit a rapid an
-mical method of refining to be substituted for the
and expensive one in use, and render unneceſsa
enlargement of the apparatus then in progreſs.
of which letter, marked E, is herewith submitte

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Not Satisfied with this

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experiment upon a sufficient scale, perceiving no conflicting theoretical reason and confiding in his integrity and known chemical skill, I made with him an agreement by which we united our interests. We then concurred in offering both processes to the United States through the Congress; who saw ~~not~~ fit to appropriate $25,000, to enable the President to purchase the right to use said new methods, or any other method, if he should deem it expedient to do so.

To induce Prof. Booth to make trial in the Mint of my method, as set forth in the specification of my patent, I gave him, in a letter dated Sept.r 23.d 1850, my views in detail, as to the manner in which I believed the gold would be most readily obtained fine and tough with the apparatus used in the Mint and designed for other purposes. And have since, from time to time, written to & received letters from him.

In a letter to him, of Nov.r 18th I asked: "what experiments ave you been and are you now trying? What are the esults? Also, what have you done, or do you intend to do, ith the $100,000, which you commenced to refine by my method in July, and had still lying in your vault unfinished when I saw you in October?" In his reply of Nov.r 21. e merely said: "I have been trying many experiments, and ave conquered many unanticipated difficulties. I ave found a process for finishing yours which I think n improvement, and am at this moment trying it. My n process is so far successful, but it is not quite complete. I think I can say certainly now each will work in the course of a week."

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an improveme moment trying it. My
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plete. I thin "ly now each will work
in the course "

I wrote again to Prof. Booth as follows: "You will oblige me by answering
"my inquiry about the $100,000, which you undertook to refine by my
"method. I wish to know what has become of it." In a letter of
Nov.r 25th he replied: "I have more than once, I believe, stated
"to you that I had been experimenting on both methods or processes,
"and upon that $100,000 among the rest, and in my last letter,
"(Please refer to it), said that I would be able to report to you in
"the course of this week. I objected to the method of toughening
"proposed and have been trying others. I can now state that
"I have obtained toughened gold by both processes, and can
"work either of them on a large scale. I have two duties
"to perform, the one private to yourself and myself, the
"other public to the Mint, Gov.t and Public; I cannot
"permit private interests to interfere with public, and,
"therefore, I have been obliged to experiment at intervals, while
"I have been raising the refining capacity of the Mint to four
"millions per month. I am now about to raise it to five or
"more millions in the same time, and can, if necessary,
"raise it much higher by the old process. This I am bound
"to do, without reference to my private interest, if I am called
"upon to do so." He adds: "when such changes shall have
"been made there will be less reason for adopting a new
"process."

I therefore, felt called upon to write to Prof. Booth, on the
26th of Nov.r and among other things to say: "If my inquiries
"in relation to the $100,000, your experiments, &c. have been
"ascribed to impatience, or if they have led you to suppose
"me desirous of interfering with or disregarding your public
"duties they have been misunderstood. That the arrangements
"for refining by the old method have been, and still are to be

"alleged, causes me no regret or apprehension. But in
"relation to the continued ~~and~~ use of that old method, long
"after the public interests and those of the owners of bullion have
"demanded a more rapid and economical process, and after
"one has been discovered and offered to the Government,
"upon any just and equitable terms, questions must arise
"which the Mint may find it difficult to dispose of. If
"such a method has been necessary, how can the omission to
"advise the Government of that necessity or "truism" be justified?
"How can the loss of thousands of dollars in interest to the U. S.
"be justified or repaired? And if a new and rapid process
"would ~~require~~ reduce the charge for labor and materials
"required to refine California gold, ought not the Mint
"to advise the use of that process to save that part of the expense
"which is now needlessly kept upon the owners of such bullion".

In the last letter which I have received from Prof. Booth, dated Dec.r 5th 1850, (copy of which, marked F is herewith presented) he seems to regard both his own method and mine as problematical, and speaks of action as "premature, until the process or processes have been shown to be successful".

The doubt which Prof. Booth had cast upon the practicability of my method, led me to address a letter, on the 23d of Nov.r, to Dr M. F. Bonzano, melter and refiner of the branch Mint at New Orleans, requesting him to make trial thereof, and giving him the requisite information & instructions. In his reply, dated Dec.r 10th 1850, (copy of which is enclosed and marked G.) he says: "I have just completed an experiment
" on refining by your zinc method. The bar of gold obtained
" was *perfectly* tough, without any addition of copper. The
" Assayer's report shows it to contain 982 m of gold and 18 m

"of silver. It is all that can be desired, for by the old proceſs "(by quartation with silver) it is rare to have the gold contain "leſs silver, and it certainly is as tough as any gold I have "ever seen. Moreover I confidently expect that it can be "refined still further by paying attention to the granulating, "which in this case was not as perfect as I might have wished."

In view of the various and unsatisfactory statements which I have received from Prof. Booth, melter and refiner of the Mint at Philadelphia, in relation to his experiments; which, if designed to test the methods patented by himself and me, should, I suppose, have at least included the trial of the preferred means for obtaining correct results designated by each inventor for his own proceſs; which course has been "objected to" by Prof. Booth with reference to my method; so that I have yet to learn certainly whether he either has or will subject it to the most appropriate trial; as well as whether his own method is or is not valuable & efficient:— in view of the aforesaid succeſsful trial of my method by the melter & refiner of the Mint at New Orleans;— and in view of the importance to the Mint, and to the depositors of bullion, of obtaining a more prompt and economical method of refining gold, which you have mentioned in your recent annual report to Congreſs, and which the Director of the Mint has set forth in his aforesaid letter to the Commiſsioner of Patents,— I am induced to request that you will take such action as, in your judgement, is requisite to cause the respective merits of the said methods of refining to be correctly and immediately determined. And I would respectfully suggest, that the desired end may be attained by instructing the Director of the Mint to have my proceſs tried without delay, under my direction and in the presence of Prof. J. C. Booth, by such workmen as shall be detailed at my request, and the process of Prof. Booth similarly tried under his direction and in my presence, — said trials to be, in each case, under the superintendence of such officers of the Mint, or appropriate persons, as you may designate; who shall report the result to the Director of the Mint to be transmitted to you, with such views of his own as he may deem fit & useful.

Very respectfully
Your Ob.t Ser.t
Rich.d S. McCulloh

Hon Thos Corwin
Sec.y of the Treasury

No 44

(Copy)

A

My Dear Sir.

I have discovered a new me
gold from silver, which possesses the f
1st. It requires little if any more than
labor & expense (acid &c) of either the Fren
cess, or the nitric Acid process now used in
2nd. It operates directly upon the silver,
you the free use of your Silver Bullion fun
&c.
3d. It does not require costly or platinum
high temperature.
4th. It will enable you to do twice the
with, your present force and arrangemen

By the advice of my friends I s
new process, and I make this commun
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=chased for the Mints of the United State

The exact proportion of expens
method and those now employed, can be
by large working results; – but from th
experiments, and the consequences whic
equivalents, I am confident the ratio w

Very.

Dr. R M Patterson
Director U. S. Mint.

Richd

(Copy) *A* Princeton.
Feby 11th 1850.

My Dear Sir.

I have discovered a new method of seperating gold from silver, which possesses the following advantages;
1st. It requires little if any more than one half of the time, labor & expense (acid &c) of either the French Sulpc. acid process, or the nitric Acid process now used in the U.S. Mint.
2nd. It operates *directly* upon the silver, and therefore gives you the free use of your Silver Bullion fund for Silver coinage &c.
3d. It does not require costly or platinum vessels, nor a high temperature.
4th. It will enable you to do *twice* the amount of work, with your present force and arrangements.

By the advice of my friends I shall patent this new process, and I make this communication to you to the end that, if you see fit, the right to use it may be purchased for the Mints of the United States.

The *exact proportion* of *expense* between this new method and those now employed, can be determined only by large working results; – but from the data of small experiments, and the consequences which flow from chemical equivalents, I am confident the ratio will be about 1/2.

Very. Respy.
Your Obt. Sert.
Richd. S McCulloh.

Dr. R M Patterson
Director U. S Mint.

Washington.
July 1st 1850.

Sir.

I have discovered a new quick and economical method of refining argentiferous and other gold bullion, whereby the work may be done in one half the present time; and a large saving effected in interest upon the amount which is currently refined and withdrawn, for that purpose, from the use of the depositor, or from the Treasury by advances for his accomodation, this amount being now between one and a half and two millions of dollars, held chiefly for that object in the Mint, and the greater part of which might be released.

In labor and materials this new method would also save about one half of the cost required by the process now used in the Mint of the United States; so that the charge to depositors for refining, which now is, as by law directed, fixed at the actual cost thereof may be considerably reduced.

The apparatus required is less costly and more compact than that used in either of the methods now employed. The advantages in respect to space are such that probably five times as much work, as at present, may be done in the same building. In the Mint at Philadelphia, ten millions of dollars per month may be refined, and the sum of $1000 would, I believe, cover the cost of the alterations and apparatus required.

This communication is made to you to the end that the U. S. Government may acquire, for an equitable consideration, the advantages to be derived from the use in the Mint and its branches, of this new chemical invention or discovery, which I have taken steps to secure by letters patent both in this country and in Europe.

If you desire any further information upon this subject, I will be happy to furnish it to you. Very Respectfully.

Hon. Wm. M. Meredith Secy. of the Treasury. Your Obt. Sert. Richd S. McCulloh.

C

(Copy)

Philadela 9th July 1850.

Dear McCulloh,

I have every reason to believe now that the process which you have patented I have been pursuing for the past few weeks. I wrote to you on the subject some 10 days ago to Princeton, but have since learned that you were in Washington. Not knowing that you had completed your process, I made a proposition to unite the two together. I have worked a few hundred pounds of gold with zinc, in various ways & think that the cost may be reduced to a very low rate. My main object in writing now is to advise you to guard your patent on one point, where it might be interfered with. A cheaper metal iron may be substituted wholly or in part for the zinc. I have tried several experiments to this effect, & altho' it is difficult to bring them easily into alloy, yet I know it can be done, & your patent might be interfered with. At all events, do you not think it well to guard against such an encroachment.

Dr Patterson showed me the Secty letter in relation to your communication I told him that I supposed I knew what the patent was, & that I had been working ~~it~~ with it for some time. He supposed you wd ask a large sum for it. I told him I thought it worth it, & that if it were my patent I wd value it very high say $50.000 in the U.S. or possibly double that amount. I think perhaps you wd have done better to have formed a company for refining gold, altho' by your present course you save yourself much trouble & annoyance.

I wish you all success in your patent both at home & abroad, & if ~~you~~ I can assist you in an opinion, I will do it with much pleasure. I can give a full opinion on it, for I have worked it all out in detail

large quantities of metal. You may imagine how elated I was when I first planned & executed it, & how sadly depressed I was to find myself as I believed No 2. However I have made the acquaintance of John Jones before now, & can shake hands with him again.

Yours truly

Jas. C. Booth.

Prof. R. S. McCulloh.
Washington D. C.

(Copy)

D

Philada 29th June 1850.

Dear McCulloh,

Your order for 50 Instruments went off, & I thought it unnecessary for you to write in the same, for you can order at any time through the same channel, with or without my help. I begged Greiner to let me know as soon as he received my order, so that we might know of the certainty of his having recd it; but you know he is no merchant & may think it unnecessary to write, as he has heretofore done much to my annoyance.

My principal object in writing is to tell you that I have been experimenting a good deal to find out new methods of refining the Cal. gold, & have succeeded in part by the use of zinc, but there are some difficulties yet to be overcome in its use on a large scale, altho' I am using it now, which require still further experiment.

I have brought the cost down to about ~~the~~ one half of our present plan, but believe that it may be produced still cheaper. As I do not know your plan nor the cost of carrying it out, I wish to ascertain whether we can unite our processes, so as to be mutually beneficial. I have just worked off a large lot of gold by my process, & find it works with tolerable facility. I have not yet examined the Records to ascertain whether it is new or not.

Yours truly

Jas. C. Booth.

Prof. R. S. McCulloh

Princeton. N. J.

(Copy)

Washington
January 27th 1851

My dear Sir

As in your letter of the 23d inst you say, that I passed through Philada twice while the brittle gold was there, without suggesting to you any way of toughening it, I feel called upon to observe:- that, upon the first of the occasions referred to by you, which happened about the 11th ~~day~~ of July, I did casually remark, if I remember aright, upon the necessity of preventing the accidental formation of sulphate of lead, as a latent cause of brittleness in refining gold with the zinc of commerce; although brittleness is the ordinary result incident to the "toughening" of gold refined by any process, always demanding care, skill and the judicious use of fluxes to overcome, but never deemed by expert refiners serious and insurmountable. And if I said no more upon that subject, it was because there was nothing in our interview which seemed to me to call for it, or which caused me to suppose that I was entitled to give to the language of your letter to me of July 9th, which I had just received, proffering to me a full opinion on my process of refining, as one which you had worked out in all its details upon large quantities of metal and deemed most valuable, any other than its literal meaning;- nor do I see, that I would have been, or am even yet at liberty to do so, notwithstanding all that has since occurred.

On returning home and finding there your letter of June 29th, addressed to me at Princeton, (not at Washington, as I may have stated, by mistake, in my letter of July 16th), in which you spoke of your experiments as then in part successful, and alluded to some difficulties to be overcome, but of which your subsequent letter of July 9th implied that they had been surmounted, I was prompted in my reply of July 16th to indicate to you the necessity of removing both zinc and lead entirely, if you would prevent brittleness from occurring upon any occasion; although in so doing I felt that I might be deemed obtrusive, as the experiments you

(copy)

were trying in the Mint without concert with me were exclusively your own, and as you had informed me, in your letter of July 9th, as above, that you had worked out the proceſs in all its details.

And had you then have sought of me any information, it would have been given, without any restriction, except that, as my application then rested in Caveat, my method should not be made public, so as to jeopard my obtaining a patent in England, nor be used in the Mint otherwise than experimentally. But the first intimation I had of your having found what you ~~seemed~~ considered a serious difficulty, in refining gold with zinc, was given to me after you had applied, on the 5th of Augt, for a patent for another proceſs of refining, and it was contained in your letter to me of Augt 13th, informing me that you had worked $100,000, which proved brittle, but that you had not tried many experiments with it, nor had time to do so; and that C. Morfit and yourself had consequently been working out another proceſs of refining on different principles.

With reference to my second visit to which you allude, and which occurred about the close of July, I have only to say, that you were then absent and had gone, I was told, to Baltimore; you being then engaged, as I have since understood, in evolving your new proceſs by experiments made by you, in aſsociation with C. Morfit Esq., in the chemical laboratory of the U. S. arsenal, near that city.

In reply to your remarks about the advantages which might have resulted, if I had called at the Mint on my last paſsage through Philada, or which might now flow from an hour's conversation, if held with you there, I have merely to observe: that without authority from the Treasury Department, I could not consistently with self respect have gone to the Mint to inquire into anything done by you under the instructions and superintendance of the Director of the Mint, whom I have good reason to believe to be personally hostile to me, notwithstanding that in your letter to me of Sept.r 21.st you expressed the fear that what you had said to me of that hostility might have led me to suppose it to be greater than it is. And if such were my views before, still more are they so since the Director of the Mint has taken leave of, and treated as unnecessary, the instructions given to him by the Secretary of the Treasury, in his letter of the 11.th inst., directing that trial of both processes should be promptly made in my presence as well as in yours, — an avoidance of orders, which I can ascribe only to feelings of animosity to myself, as they were evidently both just and expedient.

Neither you nor any one else need be surprized that I should now lay particular stress upon the propriety of an authorized trial of both processes in my presence, since in my letter to you of Sept.r 23.d, I clearly indicated to you my purpose to attend to the duty of looking after my own interests, and since, while the Director of the Mint has been writing about your trials of your own process and mine as unsuccessful, I have received from you in reply to my repeated inquiries, mere allusions to unforeseen difficulties & embarrassments as to your own method, and discouraging objections and statements concerning mine; although this has been successfully tried upon a working scale by others, and might, therefore, have been shown to be efficient, rapid and economical; which would have obviated even the apparent necessity of expanding the slow, costly and, therefore, very inferior refining arrangements used in the Mint.

The course of action pursued at the Mint, since I communicated to the Director, in a letter of Feb.y 11.th 1850, the fact of my having discovered a new and very superior process of refining, and more especially since my communication upon the same subject of July 1.st 1850, to the Treasury Department, referred on the 2.d of July to the Director of the Mint, may appear to you and others reconcilable with a proper discharge of public trusts and duties. But, I must confess, that to me that course seems to have been regardless of what was due to myself, to the depositors of bullion and to the Government.

Very respectfully yours

Prof. J. C. Booth

R. S. McCulloh

P.S. As I presume your delay to furnish me with the copy of my letter to you of Aug.^{t} 14th which you promised me, is due to your engagements, I enclose a gold dollar which you will please to pay to whomsoever you may employ to make it, and if the expense be greater I will defray it with pleasure.

(Copy)

Philad.a 23 Jan. 1851.

Dear Sir,

You favor of the 21st inst. lies before me. Notwithstanding my endeavor to satisfy you on points noted in your former letters & my aſsurance that my time was much occupied, you still urge the same and other matters, which would require a lengthened exposition. I am so much occupied in the prosecution of my, at present, arduous duties as melter & refiner that I must [give]* it again as a reason for not entering more fully into all these points. You must be aware that a short hour's conversation here at the mint, where the position and state of things can be seen in the time that would demand hours of description by letter, and where question and answer can be rapidly put & answered, which might from the character of our exchange of thought on paper require weeks to do by letter, — that all difficulties between us might be easily set aside; and had called at the mint on your last paſsage through this City, probably much time might have been saved.

There is only one point in your letter to which I can now allude, which I am the more anxious to do, lest I may have done you injustice previously, and that is, in regard to the use of muriatic acid for toughening the gold, derived from your proceſs. I had prepared a quantity of this gold in a large operation, say $100,000, & was much pleased with the first part of your proceſs, without knowing at the time that it was yours. But when I found it so brittle, I was very much at a loſs, & began to think of ways of toughening it, and tried them without much succeſs. You paſsed through the City twice, while the brittle gold was here, & suggested to me no way of toughening it. After your first visit, Mr. Monell told me, & I understood him that it came from you, that it might be effected by Muriatic acid. I thought this impracticable, and did not try it on a large scale. After your second visit, he suggested the cupel, as coming from you. This I objected to at the time, & for a long time after as you mention in your last letter, fearing loss, which I as melter & refiner, was bound to guard against. In reference to the removal of the cupel that was here, & the erection of a new furnace, five minutes in the Mint would satisfy you. I shall this day begin to warm up the new furnace & will, no accident preventing, try its melting capacity on Monday next.

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* not in the original

Very respectfully, Yours, &c.
(Signed) James C. Booth

Prof. R. S. McCulloh
Washington City, D.C.

Not in the original

opy of a telegraphic communication from the melter & refiner
the U. S. Branch Mint at New Orleans)

New Orleans, January 25. 1851

To Prof. R. S. McCulloh,

Four hundred ounces of California gold were refined by your process and perfectly toughened in a black lead Crucible, — fineness nine hundred and ninety five. A test furnace would be advantageous

M. F. Bonzano

The value of four hundred ounces of California gold, if of the fineness 900 thousands, would be about $7440

R. S. McCulloh

Philadelphia Dec 5th 1850

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 3d Inst. was duly recd. I agree with you that if there was any disposition to make an unfavorable report on the part of the Mint, when my experiments proved favorable then we ought to take an independent course of action. But I do not apprehend any such event, for the Director has been constantly watching during my experiments, whenever I informed him of them. I am sorry to say that it was but in a single experiment, that I obtained toughened gold by the zinc process, & that all others with the same lot gave a brittle metal. This was the last of the $100.000. I have since then melted up 1000 oz. gold with 2000 oz. zinc, & am now running that through. I have ordered some lead pots to be lined with a fine fire-clay by A Miller, in order to try & toughen the gold directly in the pot. My process works well in all points, except in the time for making solution, which has never been enough, in consequence of the other work; but I am now about to try a small house entirely with it, in order to give it time, & also to shorten the whole process. I am sorry to trouble you with these details, but I thought your letter called for them. I am experimenting every day, & have been doing so, except when repairs were going forward, & it cannot now be long before we arrive at a conclusion.

I think you will now see clearly that any action now would be premature, until the process or processes have been shown to be successful.

Yours very truly
Jas C Booth

Prof. R. S. McCulloh
Princeton N. Jersey

(Copy) E

Mint of the United States
Sep 5th 1850

Sir,

I am informed by Prof J. C. Booth, at present Melter & Refiner of the Mint that he has discovered a novel, economical and expeditious method of separating mixed gold and silver, and that he has made application to your office for the issue of a patent therefor. It has been suggested to me that this application would be more promptly acted upon if it was thought that the interests of the Mint would be promoted thereby. I therefore take the liberty of mentioning that we are at present engaged in enlarging and improving our separating department; our plans, however, being based entirely upon the method already in use. A better method, by which I mean one which shall be as practicable and at the same time cheaper and more expeditious it is of course our interest to introduce; and it is especially desirable that its introduction should not be postponed till after our new arrangements shall have been completed. Having great confidence in Mr Booth's candor & judgement, I am disposed to believe that his proposed method has advantages over the present; but until his patent is secured we have not the opportunity of judging by experiments on a suitable scale, how far this may be the case. I trust therefore, that you may feel justified in expediting such an examination in your office as will secure him the right of freely developing his plans, so that we may form a judgement of their merit.

Very Respectfully Yours
Robt Patterson
Director

Thomas Ewbank Esq

G

(Copy)

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Dec 10th 1850

My dear Sir,

I have just completed an experiment on refining by your Zinc method. The gold operated upon was from California, it weighed 29 ounces, and contained 897 m of gold and about 137 of silver. It was alloyed with 3½ times its weight of zinc and granulated, when the granulated mass was found to weigh 99 oz, only. After treating the granulated metal with dilute sulphuric acid, without the aid of any heat, but that evolved by the solution of the metal, the resulting powder, which was very fine, was washed, and treated in a glass matrass, first, with dilute nitric acid, and after the action had nearly ceased, with hot strong acid (of about 36° Beaume'). The solution of silver being decanted, the powder was washed on a filter, dried and melted in a Hessian crucible, with nitre & borax.

The bar of gold obtained, was perfectly tough, without any addition of copper. The Assayer's report shows it to contain 982 m of gold and 18 m of silver. It is all that can be desired, for by the old process, (by quartation with silver), it is rare to have the gold contain less silver, and it certainly is as tough as any gold I have ever seen.

Moreover, I confidently expect that it can be refined still further, by paying attention to the granulating, which, in this case, was not as perfect, as I might have wished. I consider it an easy matter to recover all the sulphate of zinc which, I think, would amply pay for the zinc & acid consumed.

But the greatest advantage is in dispensing with the quartation silver, and avoiding the great labor of dissolving, precipitating, reducing & melting such an enormous amount of metal, — besides saving the wastage, and doing away with the large apparatus now necessary for working the silver.—

I have now in hands 40 ounces of California gold of 897^{m}, which has been well granulated; in a few days I will let you know the result.—

Yours very truly
M. F. Bonzano.

To Professor R. S. McCulloh.

MEMORIAL

TO

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

ANNOUNCING

THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW METHOD OF REFINING CALIFORNIA AND OTHER GOLD BULLION.

BY RICHARD S. McCULLOH,

PROFESSOR OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY, PRINCETON; AND LATE MELTER AND REFINER AT THE UNITED STATES MINT, PHILADELPHIA.

WASHINGTON:
PRINTED AT UNION OFFICE.
1850.

MEMORIAL.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

The undersigned memorialist, Richard S. McCulloh, late melter and refiner of the mint of the United States at Philadelphia, now professor of natural philosophy in the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, respectfully states:

1st. That he has discovered a new, quick and economical method of separating silver and other impurities from gold, and has secured to himself and his assigns the exclusive right to use said method in the United States, by his having duly entered a caveat, and confidentially filed a specification, to obtain for said discovery letters patent of the United States, that will be issued to him as soon as patents, for which applications have been sent by him to England, France, Russia, &c., shall have been secured, as they soon will be.

2d. That, by this new method, parcels of gold bullion worth from one to two millions of dollars each can be as quickly refined as parcels worth but one or two hundred thousand dollars now are.

3d. That, by using this method, an indefinite series of large deposites of gold bullion can be refined in one-half the time required for the operations of the method hitherto employed at the mint of the United States.

4th. That six operations, each of the full capacity of the refining apparatus employed, may be commenced and readily finished every week by this new method; whereas but three such operations per week can be so accomplished by the method of refining gold now used in the mint and its branches.

5th. That the refining capacity of the apparatus of the mint at Philadelphia was about $100,000 per month prior to July 1, 1849; when your memorialist proceeded to construct and substitute other apparatus, worked by steam, upon a new and original plan, under authority then given to, and responsibility devolved upon, him by the Director of said mint. The refining capacity was extended to $1,500,000 by this apparatus; and it was executed with unusual despatch, having been pushed to completion by machinists working at all hours, during the prevalence of epidemic cholera, and of course at extra prices—also, without interruption of the refining work, which, by aid of temporary contrivances, was driven day and night, in unprecedented quantity, to reduce the heavy accumulation of bullion.

6th. That, during the first month of the regular employment of said apparatus, October, 1849, the whole expense of its construction was more than compensated by interest saved to depositors on the amount of bullion refined, and so promptly released from long detention—said expense having been about $6,500, including the cost of large iron water-tanks, &c., placed beneath the roof and rendered necessary by the failure of the city works to supply water, except at night; and also including the cost of heavy iron braces, used to strengthen and secure the carpentry work of that part of the building.

7th. That, by the expenditure of about $1,000 more upon this apparatus, which has been somewhat enlarged and improved by his successor in office, it might now be so modified as to adapt it to the aforesaid new method of refining gold, and to extend the refining capacity to ten millions of dollars per month, if that method be used at said mint.

8th. That the quickness with which each one of an indefinite series of gold deposites of any probable magnitude may be refined by the aforesaid new method and modified apparatus would, if they were employed, prevent its being often, if ever, necessary for the President of the United States to direct transfers of public money to be made to the mint or its branches, under the act of Congress approved May 23, 1850, to pay for gold deposites made therein before the same shall have been, or can be, refined; for the deposite of one million of dollars, which the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized, by the 31st section of the act of Congress approved January 18, 1837, to keep in said mint and its branches, for the purpose of paying the value of such bullion to the depositors thereof, with as little delay as possible after that value has been ascertained, would ordinarily be found more than sufficient for the purpose.

9th. That it appears from the Treasurer's last published statement of the amounts of public money at his credit in different depositories, computed from returns received to the 24th ultimo, that the aggregate of those in the mint and its branches was $2,500,000—being $1,500,000 in addition to the sum of one million of dollars authorized to be advanced, by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, under the aforesaid act of January, 1837. Which additional sum of $1,500,000 has undoubtedly been necessarily directed by the President of the United States to be transferred to the mint, under the aforesaid act of May 23, 1850, by reason chiefly of the time required by the process used at the mint for refining gold. And which money is provided by the government, to be advanced to the depositors of gold bullion at an expense to the treasury fully equal to interest thereon at the rate of five or six per cent. per annum; because the United States are indebted for many millions of dollars borrowed upon interest at said rates, which is constantly accruing and being paid semi-annually; and because the aforesaid acts of January, 1837, and May, 1850, expressly direct that discount or interest shall not be charged to depositors of bullion on the value thereof, advanced to them as soon as the same can be ascertained, and before it can be refined.

10th. That this new method renders the work of the refiner of gold more simple, less dependent upon his close and constant attention, and neither injurious to his health, nor offensive to others when conducted in cities.

11th. That the cost of labor and materials required for refining any parcel of gold bullion, if this new method shall be used at the mint of the United States, will not exceed one-half of the cost of labor and materials required by the method now employed therein.

12th. Finally, that he has made the fact known to the Director of the mint and the Secretary of the Treasury that he had discovered a new method of refining gold, which might be advantageously used in the mint of the United States and its branches; but, as the legislative department of the government alone has the power to secure for the general benefit of the citizens of the Union the right to use said discovery in the mint and its branches, for a valuable consideration, which may be either a just sum in gross or a fair share of the saving in labor and materials that shall be effected by the use thereof, therefore he has deemed it to be most proper that he should make the foregoing statement directly to your honorable bodies, and announce his willingness to grant, for such consideration, the right to use his aforesaid discovery in the mint of the United States and its branches.

All of which is most respectfully submitted to your consideration, by

RICHARD S. McCULLOH.

Washington, *July* 5, 1850.

A NEW METHOD OF REFINING GOLD.

In the year 1846, while engaged in scientific researches in the island of Cuba, I received the intelligence that the office of melter and refiner of the mint had been conferred upon me by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, at the instance of the director of the mint, and without solicitation by myself or my friends. I therefore returned without delay to enter upon the duties of that office.

The heavy importations of specie in 1847, amounting to more than $20,000,000, tested the melting and the coining power of the mint at Philadelphia and of that at New Orleans; but they did not task the refining capacity of either, for the reason that those importations did not require refining, being chiefly of sovereigns, napoleons, and other European gold coins.

At the mint in Philadelphia, when the influx of gold from California first commenced, we had opportunities of correct information from that country, confirming the truth of reports generally believed to be exaggerated or even fabulous.

Foreseeing the difficulties which would arise when the flood of emigration to California and steam navigation should cause argentiferous gold to come to us promptly, and in quantities for which the refining capacity of the mint ($100,000 per month) would prove inadequate, as refining officer I repeatedly urged upon the consideration of the director of the mint the expediency of enlarging the apparatus. But a characteristic caution rendered him unwilling to authorize any considerable expenditure of money, until facts should demonstrate its inevitable necessity, for the obvious reason that such unexpected expenditures might cause a deficiency in the appropriation for contingent expenses.

In July, 1849, regular and frequent intercourse with the Pacific coast having been established, heavy arrivals of gold came upon and found us wholly unprepared. Conferences between the assay officers and myself had been held by request of the director, but they led to no definite result or plan. Not to have met the emergency would have been to bring discredit upon the science, and vexation upon the commerce of our country, by causing the gold of California to be shipped to Europe to be refined. When, therefore, the hour for action had arrived—when conferences might have been productive of delay and association embarrassing—I asked and received from the director of the mint full and discretionary power to take such prompt steps as I might find necessary or see fit, upon condition that, as the refining officer, I would assume all responsibility of devising, procuring, and employing such temporary means as would relieve the immediate necessity of the mint, and such permanent arrangements as would provide for future and expanded operations, without contemplating any change of the chemical processes then and now employed at the mint.

Accordingly, and during the prevalence of cholera, I arranged with the workmen upon equitable terms, and then tasked them to labor day and night, often exposed for twenty-four hours consecutively to the heat radiated from the furnaces, or breathing, in the refinery, an atmosphere impregnated with noxious fumes. By the use of rude and extemporaneous means they daily accomplished five times the amount of work ordinarily performed, though much encumbered by the presence of workmen and their materials, employed in constructing the apparatus which I invented for more permanent use. It is matter of felicitation that, during these hurried and miscellaneous operations, no unusual wastage of gold occurred, and that no workman faltered in his extraordinary duty, or suffered from the prevailing epidemic. The public should know that these workmen of the mint are prompt, faithful, and most efficient, though humble, public servants. Endowed with all manly and noble virtues, they are entitled to the esteem of their fellow-citizens. In various forms of metallic combination, millions of dollars are constantly passing through their hands, against all loss, and any unauthorized or unnecessary waste of which, their integrity, fidelity, and skill have, for years, proved to be an ample, as it is, in my judgment, founded on experience and mature reflection as a mint officer, the only proper and reliable security. To such men, of whom our country possesses millions, all honor and consideration are justly due—honest men, the noblest works of God!

By the new apparatus and combinations, which I then invented and constructed, the refining power of the mint was augmented from $100,000 to $1,500,000 per month, being greater than that of any other known refinery in the world. And this change was effected by the payment of about $6,500, inclusive of the cost of expensive collateral and indispensable arrangements, the whole being less than the interest on the gold refined with it, and thus liberated from detention, during the first month of its use, though exceeding my original estimate, by reason of said arrangements, and of the high prices, justly demanded, for work performed during extra hours and the prevalence of the cholera.

About the time of the completion of the aforesaid apparatus, the appointment of professor of natural philosophy in the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, was tendered to me, in a manner highly complimentary, and cheerfully accepted. Such a position and its duties, and the peaceful pursuits of abstract physical science, have always had the strongest attraction for me, and I had grown weary of the care, responsibility, and toil, often protracted from early dawn till after midnight, incident to what I deemed to be the faithful discharge of my duty as a public servant and a mint officer. It was my habit, before quitting the mint at the close of each day's work, to see that the metal had been returned, by accurate weight, to the vault, and carefully to balance every account in the books, which were kept by myself. I thus knew at all times the state of my accounts; and this I deemed requisite, because several hundred thousand dollars were the quantity usually operated upon variously during a day. Besides these official labors, I was engaged in scientific researches, gratuitously performed, in relation to hydrometers, for the inspectors of the revenue, and under the superintendence of Professor A. D. Bache, as well as in more abstract professional studies with reference to the wave theory of light, electricity, and other subjects. Such toil, combined with the deleterious influence of gases, to which I was incessantly exposed, had seriously, if it has not even permanently, impaired my health. I had, therefore, every reason for exchanging with gladness my labors for those of an instructor in the halls of my *Alma Mater*—those halls venerable for their long career of eminent usefulness, and sacred to American freemen because of their connexion with one of the most important conflicts of our Revolution.

During the last days of my official labors at the mint, while engaged in testing the power of the new apparatus which I had invented and constructed, by using it to refine the large amount of gold which had accumulated in my hands during the two months occupied in its construction; thereby proving its entire success, deemed problematical and regarded with skepticism, not unmingled with apprehension, by my colleagues; while I was also engaged in writing a final and voluminous report, not yet published, of the aforesaid investigations, in response to an urgent call and request made by my friend Professor A. D. Bache, I yet found time to give some thought and attention to experimental inquiries, having for their object the discovery of new and far more efficient chemical means of refining gold than any known or previously used.

The most probable path to attain the desired end appeared to me at first to be one which should depend upon the agency of chlorine in dissolving gold. Guided by this idea, I performed varied experiments, but abandoned the investigation too hastily, perhaps, by reason of difficulties which, at the time, seemed to me almost insuperable, particularly that of sufficiently protecting the workmen against constant exposure to chlorine, which might destroy their health, if not their lives.

Quitting this path of inquiry, I turned to another, and happily conceived of a physical truth, which led me to the invention of a method of refining beautifully simple and efficient.

The newly-discovered method had also difficulties, but of minor degree; these, though in my opinion insignificant, yet demanded some time and investigation before the method could be successfully and easily employed by ordinary workmen. I tried but one experiment in the mint, and it was successful so far as it went. I showed and explained it fully to the director of the mint, but he gave it little heed, and did not appear to perceive its importance.

Having resigned, my duties as refiner of the mint were drawing speedily to a close when I made the discovery just mentioned. The time had passed when I could have introduced any new method of refining. And I could not expect my colleagues to introduce, or to consider valuable, an incomplete invention.

Both before and after I left the mint, I was counselled by those of my friends in whose judgment I have every confidence, and upon whose knowledge of the affairs and laws of men I am in the habit of relying, that I was under no manner of obligation to give to the government a most valuable discovery.

They even insisted that I should cease to conceive it to be commendable in me to waive my right to be justly compensated for what I might do for the country, and that it was my duty to be considerate of myself and of those dependent upon me.

So advised by them, and thereby convinced, having also left the mint, I perfected and took steps to patent my new method of refining gold, both at home and abroad. I then offered to sell to the government, (first in a letter to the director of the mint of February 11, 1850; then in a communication to the late Secretary of the Treasury, of July 1, 1850, which I caused to be published in the Union of July 10; and then in a memorial to Congress, dated July 5, 1850,) for the general benefit of the citizens of the Union, the right to use said discovery in the mint and its branches, for a valuable consideration, which might be either a just sum in gross, or a fair share of the saving in labor and materials that shall be effected by the use thereof.

If used in the mint, my new method would refine in a week the quantity now refined in a month; and it would, therefore, save to the United States three-fourths of six per cent. interest, or four and a half per cent. upon the amount of money now kept in the mint for the accommodation of depositors by advances upon their bullion before the same can be refined; which amount is $2,500,000, upon which the saving of 4½ per cent. interest would be $112,500. But even this fund is found to be insufficient to meet the demands of the dealers in bullion, constantly coming in increasing quantities from California; and it will probably become necessary for the President to increase it to the extent of one or more millions of dollars, under the provisions of the act, approved May 23, 1850, authorizing him to make such advances to an indefinite extent.

Although I might justly have asked valuable consideration from the United States for the aforesaid large saving of interest, I have foreborne to seek one dollar from the treasury, either of money therein, or which may hereafter be saved to the government by the use of my invention.

But, for the benefit of the depositor of bullion, who by the existing enactments is justly charged with the cost of labor and materials used for refining his bullion, I have asked that I may be permitted to furnish an expeditious method, which will also be attended with economy, upon condition that he may use my method or not, as he may elect, and that, if he use it, I shall receive one-half of the saving in materials and labor, but no portion of the interest saved to him.

This arrangement is evidently one of great advantage: first, to the treasury of the United States, by saving large amounts of interest, and by liberating funds now withdrawn from the use of the government, without valuable consideration for the same to the patentee: secondly, to depositors of bullion, by saving to them interest whenever the fund advanced from the treasury shall be insufficient to pay for their bullion as soon as assayed, which will happen frequently; and by reducing the charge to them for labor and materials.

Since the above offer was made by me, and while it has been pending, Professor James C. Booth, an able chemist, and my successor in the office of melter and refiner of the mint, having turned his attention to the subject, has succeeded by novel and ingenious means in overcoming the difficulties attendant upon the employment of the agency of chlorine: he therefore has invented a method equal in efficiency to my own. The two form, together, the halves of a complete whole; each half being an independent path to the common end, and of equal access and value.

When he announced to me this result, and had unfolded to me the details of his process, I agreed to unite the two, and offer both to the government upon the terms originally proposed by me for one. Such a union and such an offer has been made; and it now rests with Congress to decide whether or not it shall be accepted, for the benefit of the United States and its citizens.

The above is a complete exposition of this matter, which I make in justice to myself, to my friends, and to the public.

RICHARD S. McCULLOH.

Sept.r 23.d 1850

U. States Branch Mint
Charlotte N. Ca 28th Decemr. 1850

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th Inst explaining why a Draft for $300 in favor of Dr. Patterson Director of the Mint at Philadelphia had not been transmitted, and authorizing me to draw for a like sum, on a fund of $2.696.20 Silver Bullion, still to the credit of this Branch at the Mint, in Philadelphia.

That sum of $2.696.20 in Silver Bullion was ordered to be transferred from this Branch Mint, to the Mint at Philadelphia on the 9th March last, by E. Whittlesey Esq Comptr. of the Treasury, which was done, and a credit obtained for the Amount, in my Bullion A/ce for the 3d Quarter 1850, consequently I considered the transfer had been perfected and that I had no further controll over the Bullion, or its value in coin, and therefore I made the requisition for $300. upon your Department, to put the Director in funds to pay for acids, crucibles &c which had been purchased for and sent to this Branch Mint.

I shall in conformity to your instructions draw upon that fund for the Amt. of $300.

I have the honor to be very respectfully
Your Ob. Servt
James W Osborne
Superintendent

Honble Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Dec. 27, 1850.

Sir,

I have the honor of sending enclosed the Official Bond of Augustus Devall, as Coiner of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, — and I give with it, as required, my approbation of the Bond, upon the grounds on which it is founded.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin.
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, December 30th. 1850.

Sir,

I beg leave to solicit your attention to a brief statement respecting an improvement I have made in the calculations of the gold deposites, and I respectfully ask that a proper compensation may be allowed me for the advantage accruing to the Mint from the use of this improvement.

My method enables me so to suit the operation and results, that the paper, upon which they are entered, is copied by the press, and Substituted for the Abstract required for the Department.

I ask to be remunerated for this latter advantage, because the preparation of the Abstract has formerly demanded much labor and time, and is entirely distinct from the duties connected with my department.

As this improvement has had two months' trial at the Mint, during which I have calculated and entered 2000 deposites and proved the correctness of the calculations, an opportunity is thus afforded of judging of its utility.

I have taken the liberty of troubling you with this matter, with the hope that you will authorise such compensation to be awarded me, as may, in your judgement, seem proper.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully Your mo. Obt. Servt.
Geo. W. Edelman,
Treasurer's Office-Clerk.

To/ Hon. Thos. C. Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington

U. States Branch Mint
Charlotte N. Ca 6th April 1850

Sir:

Upon consultation with the Melter & Refiner he thinks he can spare from the use of the Refinery about 2.500 Ozs

It is very important, from the character of a large quantity of the Gold presented at this Mint, for Coinage, that he should have a sufficiency of Silver on hand to separate from 4 to 6.000 Ozs of Gold without being compelled to reduce his Silver, after every resort to the Refinery, as it facilitates his operations very much in the Melting and Coining Departments to let the Silver remain in the Chloride form till he can have time to reduce it to the metallic.

The charges will be about 1 pr. cent premium insurance by rail road from Camden to Charleston, with freight & charges and I suppose about the same rate of insurance from Charleston, by Steamer to Philadelphia with freight and charges in all about $50 or $60.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
James W Osborne
Treasurer of the
Branch Mint.

Elisha Whittlesey Esqr
Comptroller Treasy Department
Washington City

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans March 16. 1850

Sir!

It has been found necessary, since the large receipts of California Gold at this Mint to enlarge very considerably ~~to~~ the Separating apparatus and appurtenances in the Melting Department - The work has been executed upon a plan approved by the Director, and gave occupation for many weeks, to several Workmen, independently of those employ'd upon the operations of Coinage - In a report just rec^d. from our Melter & Refiner, that officer says." Six men are utterly insufficient for
" the wants of my Department, and if the men
" lately employ'd for putting up apparatus, and
" now partially engaged on that work (for
" the Separating apparatus, tho in active opera-
" -tion is not complete) were dismissed, the
" most unsatisfactory results must necessarily
" follow." Such is the amount of our in-debtedness to Depositors, that I have taken the responsibility of not dismissing these men without your orders -

Very respectfully
Y^r ob^t Serv^t
J. M. Kennedy Supt

Hon Wm M. Meredith
(Sec^y of the Treas^y) Washington D.C.

J. M. Kennedy &c.
U.S. Br. Mint N. Orls.
March 16 1850

Balance in the New Orleans Mint Jan. 1, 1850: Gold		$ 693,220.47
Silver		393,315.17
Total		$ 1,086,535.64
Add Deposites of January	$474,106.69	
February	678,986.55	
March	707,397.86	1,860,491.10
		$ 2,947,026.74
Deduct Coinage of January	$ 172,000.	
February	240,000	
March	334,000	746,000.
Balance in N. Orleans Mint, 1 April 1850.		$2,201,026.74
Bal. in Phila. Mint Same period		3,951,500.62
of which due to Bullion Fund & Assist. Treas.	$1,600,000	
due to private depositors	2,351,500	
	3,951,500	6,152,527.36

Bal. at Philada. will probably be or nearly the Same at the end of April.

Recapitulation. Philada Mint end of March 3,951,500.62
Of which there is in Bullion Fund and
Ass. Asst. Treas. U.S. at Phila
on deposits of foreign gold 1,600,000.00
Amt. due private Depos. at Phila. Mint 2,351,500.62

N. Orleans Mint End of March
2,201,026.74 ~~[illegible]26.74~~
Bull. Fund 100,000.00
due depositors at N. Orleans 2,101,026.74

Total amt. due Deps. at Philada. Mint, and New Orleans 4,452,537.36

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans June 1st 1850

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication address'd to me by the Treasurer of the Branch Mint in reference to the Clerks employ'd in his department, upon which I invoke your speedy action. I have requested Mr Lasère to confer with you upon the subject, and to invite the attendance of Messrs Downs and Soulé. I beg leave to give you the assurance that the relief ask'd for by Mr Wickes, is a matter of not only urgent but indispensable necessity.

Very respectfully
Yr obt Servant
J. M. Kennedy
Supt

Hon Wm M. Meredith
Secretary
of the Treasury
Washington
D. C.

U. S. Branch Mint New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, June 14. 1850.

Sir,

The duties of the two Clerks allowed to this Branch Mint by law, have, for some time past, been growing more and more arduous, and still continue to do so, in proportion as deposites of California gold become more numerous.

So great was the practical inconvenience felt by the late Treasurer, from this cause, that he found it necessary to employ an effecient person, at his own expense, to enable him to get through, in reasonable time, his busineſs with the public.

Under existing circumstances, I also find that my office is crippled, and that the addition of a fully competent Clerk, to its present force, is almost indispensable.

In connection with the difficulties attending the deficiency of clerical labor, are others, resulting from the inadequacy of the compensation to the clerks (say $1200 per annum each) prescribed also by the Mint act.

These are appointments of great responsibility, they can only be filled by persons of unquestionable integrity and tried capability, Among candidates for employment on these terms in New Orleans, you are doubtleſs aware that it is hard to find an acceptable person;

$1500 to $1800 being the customary salaries paid to such as the business of this office requires.

In this particular another practical difficulty has also been experienced by every Treasurer of this Branch, with the exception of Mr. Forstall, the first appointed incumbent; both his successors, Mr. Cammack, and Mr. Macmurdo, have each been compelled to pay out of their private funds, from four to five hundred dollars yearly, in addition to the salary allowed by law, in order to secure the services of competent and trustworthy persons, to fill the office of Treasurer's Clerk. Such are the concessions my predecessors have been constrained to make, and I see no good reason to hope, that I shall be able to retain a suitable person in the same place, without submitting to a similar sacrifice.

In view of the foregoing facts, I request that you will give these matters your early attention, and take whatever steps you may think best calculated to procure the assistance so very much needed, and the augmentation of salaries, so essential to the successful transaction of the affairs of this Branch Mint.

I am, very respectfully,
Your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) T. S. Wickes,
Treasurer

Jos. M. Kennedy Esqr.
Supt. Br. Mint, N. Orleans

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, June 29. 1850.

Sir,

The six transfer drafts in my favor, on the Assistant Treasurer at New York, amounting to Two hundred & fifty thousand dollars, referred to in your letter of 20th instant, were received yesterday. – The amount, as directed, will be placed to the credit of the Treasurer of the U. States, on the books of this Office, on Bullion account, and be applied by me under the provisions of the Act of 23. May last, in payment of depositors of bullion at the Mint for coinage.

In conformity with your instructions I have this day, advised you by telegraph, that the Drafts could be disposed of at par, payable in Silver coin, deliverable in sums as required, within one week from date of sale, and at same time, requested you to instruct me by telegraph, regarding their disposal.

I have the honor to be
Your Obt. Servt.
J. J. Wickes,
Treasurer.

Hon. W. M. Meredith,
Secretary of the Treasury

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, July 12. 1850.

Sir,

In accordance with the instructions contained in your telegraphic despatch of 5th inst. I have disposed of the transfer drafts in my favor on the Asst. Treasurer at New York, amounting to $250.000. to Messrs J. Corning & Co. at par.- As soon as the arrangement was made, (9th inst.) they commenced by taking one of the drafts for $100.000.- and will tomorrow take the remaining $150.000.-

I have to day received a proposal from one of our Banks, to take transfer drafts on New York, to the extent of $750.000. or $1.000.000.- at par, to be paid here in gold coin, if desired.- Should the proposal be accepted, they would require a month or six weeks to take the whole amount, which would render it necessary to have the drafts in sums of $50.000 or $100.000. each.-

Messrs J. Corning & Co. are also disposed to contract for the balance of the amount, which it is contemplated to transfer to this Branch Mint, on the same terms as the $250.000.- Be pleased to inform me of your decision in regard to further transfers, that it may be communicated to the parties interested.

Very respectfully, Your Obt Servt.
J. M. Wikes,
Treasurer.

Hon. W. M. Meredith
Secy. of the Treasury

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Augt. 5. 1850.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 26.d ulto. The five transfer drafts of $50.000 each, therein referred to, have been received from the Treasurer of the U. States, and agreeably to your instructions, the amount will be placed to his credit, on the Books of this Office, on bullion account.

To enable me to pay, promptly, depositors at this Mint, of bullion for coinage, it will be necessary to have the additional sum of $500.000.- making the total amount of the deposits $1.000.000.- as recommended to your predecessor, by the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, when the bill authorizing the transfers, became a law; This opinion was concurred in, at the time, by the Superintendent and all the Officers of this Mint.

I am very respectfully,
Your Obt. Servt.
I. J. Weikes
Treasurer.

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Sept. 6. 1850.

Sir,

Since my letter to you of the 5th. ulto., I have received from the Treasurer of the U. States, another remittance of $250.000.- in Transfer drafts on the Asst. Treasurer, New York, making together $750.000. received on Bullion account.

The first remittance of $250.000. was negotiated to Messrs. J. Corning & Co. at par, as advised in my letter of 12th. July, and yesterday I negotiated to the same house, the remaining Transfer drafts, amounting to $500.000.- also, at par, with the condition, to take $250.000. at once, and the balance in the course of the present, or the commencement of next month.- As exchange on New York, has lately experienced a decline, the current rate now, being 1/4 per cent discount to par, for sight checks, I have had some difficulty in disposing of these drafts, it would therefore, I think, be advisable, to adopt some other plan, for the transfer of the remaining $250.000.- which it is contemplated to place at this Mint, on Bullion account, and I respectfully suggest, that it be remitted in Specie or gold, by one of the Steamers from New York. - If, however, you have already given instructions to the Treasurer, to remit Transfer drafts for this amount, I shall no doubt succeed in negotiating them to the Mess^rs Corning, on the same terms. -

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
J. J. Wickes
Treasurer.

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans Oct 1. 1850

Sir,

Robert White, who has been one of our Watchmen since the establishment of the Mint in 1837, received, some two months since, by the bursting of his musket, which he had, after the usual interval of a week, discharged for the purpose of renewing the load, an injury which resulted in the amputation of his left hand, just above the wrist. He now, after having undergone the necessary surgical treatment, reports himself to me as ready to resume his situation, and I have reinstated him upon his post, subject to your approval — the loss he has sustained does not in any manner interfere with a proper degree of vigilance such as he has always exhibited, and I do not look for any contingency which he may be on duty, in which he may not be of some service. Considering the circumstances of the accident, the fidelity of White for so many years, and his having a wife and three or four children I hope you will sanction what I have done — Respy. Yr. obt. Servt.

J. M. Kennedy Supt.

Hon. Thos. Corwin, Sec. of the Treasy.

J. M. Kennedy, Treasurer.
New Orleans, Sept. 6. 1850

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Nov. 2. 1850.

Sir,

Being desirous to absent myself from my post, for about one month, I respectfully request your permission to do so, and that you would authorize me to appoint as my representative, (as per section 4th. of the Mint Act approved January 18. 1837.) the chief Clerk of this Mint, Mr. Martin G. Kennedy, for whose acts I, as well as my securities, will be responsible, in accordance with the condition stated by the Secretary of the Treasury, in a letter addressed by him to the Director of the Mint, in July 1841. upon a similar application made by one of my predecessors in Office.

I shall, at the request of the Superintendent, extend my visit to Philadelphia, with the view of taking charge of the dies for 1851, prepared at the Mother Mint, for the use of this Branch.

If the desired permission is granted, it is my intention to leave here about the 22d. instant. I therefore ask the favor of your earliest attention to this communication.

With much respect, Sir,
Your Obt. Servt.
J. W. Wickes
Asst. Treasurer U.S.
& Treas. Br. Mint N. O.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Tusculum, near
Wilmington Delaware
Jno R Latimer Esqr Feby. 21 – 1850

Dear Sir

I have given much reflection to the subject, about which, I spoke to you yesterday morning; and the more I have thought about it, the more important I consider it.

During my last visit to Washington, I was so afflicted with the Rheumatism, that I was seldom out, or I should have suggested it to Mr Meredith.

I have committed my views upon this subject to writing, in the form of additional Sections to the Branch Mint Bill; and also, in the Form, of a Bill on the Treasury Department, which I annex.

Of course, these would require examination, & modification.

I believe that if some measure of this kind were adopted, it would prevent any Gold from being shipped from California, to any other part of the world, except our Atlantic States.

The government might have insurance effected, in open Policies for a Million of Dollars, at New York, Philada, & Boston, & have these Policies renewed, as fast as they were made use of.

The Treasury Department could have an Agent residing at Panama, to accompany each shipment to Chagres & see it safe on board the Steam Boat there, or the Bullion might be shipped home, in the Public Ships of War, direct from St. Francisco.

Bills drawn, somewhat in the Form annexed, would serve as remittances from California, not only to the U.S, but also to Europe & Asia, for they would soon pass current, all over the civilized world.

I am very respectfully,
Your friend & Servt,
John Connell

Excuse a lame arm,
and pale ink

Additional Sections, proposed to be added, to the Bill, to establish a Branch Mint at St. Francisco.

And be it further enacted, that the Director of the Branch Mint aforesaid, be, & he is hereby authorized, to purchase, for account of the United States, Gold Bullion, after it has been assayed at the Mint, upon such terms & conditions, and subject to such restrictions, as he may from time to time, receive from the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

And be it further enacted, that in payment of said Bullion, the Director of the Mint aforesaid, be, and he is hereby authorized, to draw Bills of Exchange, at twelve months after date, upon the Secretary of the Treasury, and the public faith of the U States is hereby pledged, for the payment of the same.

And be it further enacted, that it shall & may be lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury, & he is hereby required, upon the application of the Holder of any Bill, drawn as aforesaid, on the surrender of such Bill to the Treasury Department, to issue & furnish the Holder of said Bill, an equal amount of Treasury Notes, payable at the time when said Bill would have become due.

And be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, to transmit instructions to the Director of the Mint at St. Francisco, to cause all Bullion, purchased by him for account of the United States, to be forthwith shipped to New York or Philadelphia or New Or by such conveyance~~s~~ as he may deem proper; and the Director of the Mint shall in all respects comply with such instructions as he may receive from the Secretary of the Treasury, with respect to the purchase of Bullion for account of the United States, or of the shipment of the same.

And be it further enacted, that the Secretary of the Treasury be & he is hereby authorized, and required to cause insurance to be effected upon all such Bullion, so shipped for account of the United States; and that all charges for insurance, freight & other incidental expenses, incurred on the shipment or transportation of said Bullion, shall be paid out of any money in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

Form of a Bill, upon the Secretary of the Treasury.

Arms of the
United States

By authority of the Congress of the United States of America.

To the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America,
~~At~~ Washington, District of Columbia.

Branch Mint of the United States
St. Francisco, California
December 1 — 1850

Twelve months after date, of this my first of exchange to (second & third of same tenor & date unpaid) pay to the order of John Smith, ~~One thousand dollars~~ at the Treasury of the United States, One thousand Dollars, in the gold or silver coin of the United States, for the payment of which, the faith of the United States, is hereby pledged, in pursuance of an Act of Congress, entitled an "Act to establish a Branch Mint of the United States, at St. Francisco, in California, approved — day — 1850.
The Holder of this Bill, upon surrendering the same, at the Treasury of the United States, shall be entitled if desired to receive ~~if desired~~, from the Secretary of the Treasury, an equal amount in Treasury Notes, payable at the time, when this Bill shall become due

A B
Director of the Branch Mint
at St. Francisco, California

Washington
30th September 1850.

To the Honble
Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir.

We respectfully beg leave to call your attention to that part of the "Act making appropriations for the Civil and Diplomatic expenses of Government, for the year ending the 30th June 1851 and for other purposes" approved 30th September 1850, which authorizes & directs the Secretary of the Treasury to contract, upon the most reasonable terms, with the proprietors of some well established assaying works, now in successful operation in California, to perform under the supervision of the United States Assayer, such duties in assaying & fixing the value of gold in grains and lumps, & in forming the same into bars, as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

We would respectfully

represent to the Department of the Treasury
that we, the subscribers are the proprietors
of well-established assaying works now
in successful operation at San Francisco,
and that there is no other establishment
for refining & assaying Gold now
in operation in the State of Califor-
-nia - Other establishments of that
description have been attempted, but
all have withdrawn, & abandoned the
business, except the House of Moffat & Co.
We are prepared to give the security
required by law, and our Mr. J.
R. Curtis having occasion to
return to California, forthwith, would
be glad to come to some conclusion
with the Department, at its
earliest convenience -

Most respectfully
Your obt
Svts -

Moffat & Co

P.S. We submit, herewith, Testimonials of our standing in Business, and our character as Citizens — We refer, also, with Confidence, to the Senators and Members of the H. of Reps from California, and to the Hon. James G. King and any other eminent Bankers of the City of New York —

The Law of the State of California limits the charge, or price of refining & assaying Gold — We are willing to agree not to charge our customers a higher rate than that fixed by the State authorities. It is certain that we cannot command any business, unless the work be done at so low a rate, as to prevent the Gold from being sent to the Atlantic States for refining.

San Francisco 28 Nov 1850.

To the Hon
Secretary of the Treas'y of the U States
Washington
DC.

Sir,

So intimately connected does it appear to me to be, with the prosperity of the country with no other apology, I beg leave to urge upon your early consideration the establishment of a Mint in California.

It is now estimated upon reliable data, that the product of the Gold Mines in this state cannot be less than some Four Millions of dollars monthly or about 250.000 ounces of dust. Of this quantity, at least one half tis calculated, finds its way abroad; or say 125.000 ounces at a valuation of sixteen 16$ Dollars the ounce. This, according to the Mint returns is worth at an average 18$ showing a loss to the U States to the extent of the difference ($2 the oz) between $16 and 18$ or ~~$~~ the enormous sum of $250.000 dollars monthly; actually lost to the US by being taken from the country on foreign account at the dust price. instead its first receiving the Mint stamp'd value.

The putting this into #"Ingots", as has been suggested, will not, in the opinion of practical Merchants here be at all remedial. It must be put into *Coin*; large if needs be to enable the mints to keep up with the production, but certainly coins of not over $100 dollars that they may be convenient for *currency*, — circulation for commercial and mercantile purposes.

Millions of dollars would have been saved the U States, had a Mint of sufficient capacity been put into operation here twelve months ago; and a forfeiture imposed on all dust *exported*, and a tax; light as practicable or expedient of not over 25 cents the oz for the double purpose of paying coinage and the liberty of mining on Gov't lands.

Could you be better acquainted with the facts and circumstances. I shall not doubt you would, as I presume it would be proper for you to do, — press the matter upon the consideration of Congress as a financial or pecuniary gain to the Government demanding prompt action. One months *saving* to the country will be more than ample to put the whole in motion in a suitable building, with machinery etc. commensurate to the supply of Dust.

I have the honr to be,
Most Respy Yr Obt
Chas. A. Gurley

#By Senator Gwin.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Jan. 1, 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor of presenting the followin statements of the Coinage at this Mint during the month which has just closed.

The kind of Coin	The numbers.	The Value.
Gold Coins.		
Double Eagles.	189,821	£ 3,796,420
Quarter Eagles.	45,000	112,500
Gold dollars.	78,098	78,098
	312,919	3,987,018
Silver Coins.		
Quarter dollars.	68,800	16,700
Dimes.	115,000	11,500
Half Dimes	290,000	14,500
	473,800	42,700
Copper Coins.		
Cents.	794,847	7,948.47
Grand Totals.		
	1,579,566.	4,037,666.47

Very respectfully, your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Washington Jan.y 4. 1851

My dear Sir,

As you lately requested me to furnish you a copy of the correspondence between the Director of the Mint and myself, in relation to the manufacture of medals in the Mint, and as one has been placed at your disposition, I deem it proper likewise to submit the following statement.

Soon after I entered upon the duties of the office of melter and refiner of the Mint, in 1846, I was requested by the Coiner, Mr. Peale, to furnish him, in conformity with usage, with some ingots of fine silver to make medals for the Indian tribes; which request I complied with. And, as he promptly returned me an equivalent amount of silver, I did not entertain any doubt, that I had, therein, performed a regular & proper official act.

During the ensuing year several similar transactions occurred between the Coiner and myself; his applications being complied with by me, in confidence of their propriety.

Doubts were subsequently awakened in my mind by several occurrences, to wit:

1st The foreman of the silver melting room, being requested by Mr. Peale to get the moulds ready for casting ingots for a lot of medals to be made for the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania, refused to do so. Complaint was consequently made by Mr. Peale to me as the officer in charge of the melting operations. When simply interrogated by me the foreman replied: that the manufacture of medals formed no part of the proper

From
R. M. Patterson,
Director &c.

work of the Mint; that Mr. Peale carried it on as a busineſs for his own profit, and paid nothing to those who had to perform the work for him; and that he did not wish to do anything either for Mr. Peale or the Franklin Institute. He was apparently excited; and ascribing his action rather to feeling than anything else, I replied that he was probably mistaken in believing that Mr. Peale would realize any profit from medals made for a public institution designed to promote the arts and sciences; that the work was doubtleſs gratuitous and prompted on the part of Mr. Peale only by a commendable public spirit; and that he would, therefore, oblige me by making the ingots. His reply was, as recollected by me: "I will gladly do, Sir, anything you request, but in making medal ingots I wish it to be understood that I consider it no part of my duty. And when you, Sir, have been long enough in the Mint to know about this medal busineſs, you will think differently of it from what you do now."

2d. Upon the occasion of the visit of President Polk to the Mint, the Coiner Mr. Peale presented to him a copper medal, struck for the purpose. A few days afterwards, a bill for that medal made out in a sum much greater than it could poſsibly have cost, and not in the name of Mr. Peale but in that of a workman, who was not entitled to the money, was presented by that workman and paid out of the contingent fund of the Mint by one of the clerks. This circumstance being made known by that clerk to the Treasurer and other officers, and being disapproved of by them, Mr. Peale instead of causing the money to be restored to the United States, as should have been done, suffered it to be refunded chiefly by his colleagues, himself becoming a contributor.

3d: A lot of medals, for a corporation in Massachusetts, was made by the Coiner out of silver advanced by me, according to usage; but, instead of promptly returning to me an equivalent quantity of silver, he delayed to do so for several weeks.

This delay drew my attention to the propriety of these transactions and led me to examine the laws of the United States for the purpose of ascertaining whether I could legally advance bullion to any officer of the Mint. As I did not find authority for so doing, I submitted to the Director the question, whether or not I had any right to deliver medal ingots to the Chief Coiner, as had been customary both before and after I entered upon the duties of my office. He decided that I had none. I then offered to procure from the War Department, for the accomodation of the Coiner in preparing medals for the Government, such advances as I felt no longer at liberty to make to him out of the bullion in my charge; this offer he declined; and my action excited some feeling upon his part.

Subsequently, I agreed to let the Coiner have medal ingots, with the knowledge and sanction of the Director, upon his delivering to me simultaneously bullion of equal value, as I had not then formed the opinion that the manufacture of medals as pursued within the Mint was entirely wrong; for I had forborne to ask questions, and, therefore, knew but little of its details, as the subject was one about which silence was generally observed by the officers and workmen of the Mint.

Accordingly, I afterwards did, from time to time, deliver ingots for the manufacture of medals to Mr. Peale, receiving from him simultaneously bullion of equal value.

But upon the last occasion of his obtaining metal from me, Mr. Peale requested that I would let him use refined gold, with which I was charged, to prepare the medal ordered by Congreſs to be presented to Genl. Taylor, for the battle of Buena Vista; which I consented to do with expreſs understanding that the gold so to be transformed into a medal should remain in the custody of Mr. Peale, as an officer of the Mint, until he should deliver to me bullion of equal value to that of the said gold. But this understanding he violated by parting with the medal without having first delivered to me the value of the gold contained therein; and as soon as this fact became known to me, I was obliged to require him to restore to me immediately bullion of the aforesaid valu In reply, he objected that it would put him to inconvenience which compelled me to make my demand peremptory, a proceeding unavoidably painful to myself as it was of necessity inherently offensive to him. The bullion thus demanded was on the same day restored to me.

The aforesaid unpleasant occurrences led me gravely to consider all I knew about the manufacture of medals at the Mint, and carefully to re-examine the laws for the establishment & regulation of that institution. And I there became convinced that I ought not to aid any officer in conducting transactions of profit based upon ~~the~~ work performed by the machinery and workmen of the Mint, unleſs expreſsly authorized by law. Hence, when Mr. Peale applied to me for gold to be used for the medal ordered by Congreſs to be presented to Genl. Scott, in honor of

his

glorious victories during the Mexican war, I was constrained, by my sense of duty, respectfully to decline to furnish it, for reasons embodied in my correspondence with the Director of the Mint, copy whereof has been furnished to you.

The last letter of that correspondence, I presented to the Director in person, and when he had read it and had remarked upon the subject of medals made by the Coiner, without controverting any of the facts, views or reasons which I had submitted, I assured him, that I had been actuated only by a sense of duty, and that I bore towards the Coiner no unkind feeling, which the latter had, I was told, imputed to me as the reason for my having refused to furnish bullion to him.

Shortly afterwards, I took occasion to request the Director to show to the Coiner, if he had not so done, the aforesaid correspondence; for the assigned reason, that I did not wish to discuss the propriety of the conduct of another without his knowledge. And, actuated by my desire & official obligation to serve the public interests, I then expressed to the Director of the Mint, the opinion entertained by me of want of correct judgement on the part of the Coiner; justifying that opinion, by referring to the abovementioned affair of the medal presented to Mr. Polk, paid for out of and refunded to the contingent fund of the Mint, and by remarking, thereupon, according to my recollection, that it had forced me to believe Mr. Peale, either not to have a proper sense of right and wrong in such matters, or not to be always governed by it, and that, of those alternative conclusions, I preferred the former, as the most just, because the most charitable. To which the Director replied (by remarking) as I remember, that "Such things are customary" and asking me whether I did "not suppose the dinner given to the President at the Navy Yard to have been paid for out of the public purse" — I answered: "it ought not to have been, if it was."

This medal business has been carried on with the full knowledge, sanction and concurrence of the Director of the Mint, — a fact, which I cannot reconcile with the intelligence of that officer, upon the assumption, which I have felt bound to make; that he is a disinterested party; nor with his sense of justice, as I believe, that the profits thereof are retained almost wholly by the Coiner, while the work is performed by other persons and the machinery of the Mint, and that the artists of the Country consider said business as an unjust monopoly, conducted by a machinist in unprofessional & improper competition with their industry, resources & talent, who derives it only from official station.

In extenuation, it may be stated that the business of making medals in the Mint originated many years since, in applications by the Government to the Coiner of the Mint to prepare those needed by it, to be presented to the Indian tribes, or awarded by Congress to officers of our Army & Navy. A twig engrafted may be healthy at first, but it may grow to be a branch full of morbid excrescences, and poisonous to the whole tree. And certainly the Government never could have designed that the Mint should become a factory for the fabrication & sale of premiums to be awarded at gricultural fairs, and industrial exhibitions.

In conclusion, I should say, that you are of course at liberty to make any use, private or public, of this communication and of the correspondence to which it refers, ~~as~~ that, in your judgement, the public interest may require.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Richd. S. McCulloh
late Melter & Refiner of the Mint

Hon. Thos. Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury

Mint of the United States
6 Jany 1851.

Sir,

At the request of the Treasurer of the Mint, I have the honor of replying to your letter of the 4th inst, in which you inquire of him what portion of the Bullion Fund of the Mint is in coin, and can be made available beyond the demand for re-imbursement of certificates of deposit.

In consequence of the disparity between the coinage & deposites of the Mint, during the past two years, growing out of causes of a temporary tho' unavoidable character, large transfers of coin were ordered from the Assistant Treasury at New York to the Treasury of the Mint, with the design of paying off the debt that had accrued to our depositors. In consequence of such payment the United States became the owner of the uncoined bullion of those depositors then in the Mint, the obligation on our part being to repay the amount in coin whenever demanded by the necessities of the department.

Since those transfers I regret to say that the Mint has not yet been able to reach, in its coinage, the value of its deposites. Although the gold coined in the last two months has exceeded 8 millions of dollars, the amount has fallen short nearly a million of the deposites during the same time. It is apparent, therefore, that we have not yet had it in our power to make any progress towards repaying to the Government the amount advanced for our assistance.

The difficulties under which we have labored arose from the insufficient refining capacity of the Mint. After many changes & enlargements in our apparatus & space, I have at length the satisfaction to believe that we are able to part at the rate of 5 millions per month, an amount exceeding any monthly deposite heretofore made, or likely to be made. An improvement is now in progress by which the amount will be increased to 6 or 7 millions. A temporary interruption in our operations during a part of the last & present months, growing out of the provision of law which requires the Melter & Refiner & Coiner to deliver up the bullion in their hands & settle their accounts to the close of each year, will affect unfavorably the coinage of the present month. After that we hope to continue a monthly coinage of at least 6 millions.

From these considerations you will perceive that any draft upon our bullion fund at the present time could only be honored from such portion of our coinage as would otherwise be appropriated to the payment of private deposites. I should, under these circumstances, much regret that the public convenience created a necessity for the transfer of any portion of this fund at the present time.

Unless our deposites should, most unexpectedly, increase so materially beyond the present amount, I think many months will not elapse before we shall be in a situation to resume prompt payment to our private depositors, & re-imburse to the Government a large portion of the public moneys transferred to us.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Wm L. Hodge,
Asst. Sec'y of Treas'y
Washington.

P.S. I forward, by this mail, to the Secretary of the Treasury, a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Hon. Jas. G. King, and in reply to questions which he had presented to me. In that letter I have entered at some length into the causes of the disparity between our deposites & coinage, and I beg to refer you to it, as its perusal will serve as an additional reply to your own letter.

To attain these ends, it was determined to procure new sets of boilers, & lay them in the area of the Mint, erecting above them a building with a low roof which should be occupied for an engine house, & other purposes, & liberate a portion of the Mint building proper, for the use of the Refinery. The appropriations for our use having become exhausted I made application to Congress through the Treasury Department for a special above mentioned, we have defrayed these expenses from our regular appropriations.

4. You ask me, lastly, for such information as is in my possession, officially, of new processes of assaying, or refining.

I have received no suggestion for an improvement in the methods of *assaying* adopted at this Mint. The *refining*, or separating process (which in the public mind has been confounded

une	29
July	38
Aug.	4
Sept.	9,
Oct.	26,
Nov.	14,
Dec.	8,
Totals	327,

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(Copy)

Mint of the United States

Sir 4 Jany 1851

In reply to your letter of the 31st presenting certain queries in relation to the Mint in Philadelphia I have the honor to furnish the following statements.

1. Your first query has relation to the amount and character of our deposites and coinage during each month of the past year. The annexed table embraces complete information on these points with the exception that in regard to a portion of the deposites of the last month still unassayed and uncalculated we have been compelled to make an estimate which I am confident will not vary much from the actual result.

Deposites & Coinage of the Mint, at Philadelphia, in 1850.

GOLD

ERIODS	DEPOSITES					COINAGE					
850	U. S. Coins old standard	Foreign Coins	United States Bullion	Foreign Bullion	Total Gold deposited	Double Eagles	Eagles	Half Eagles	Quarter Eagles	Dollars	Total Gold coined
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Dollars
an.	...	130,654	993,657	11,171	1,135,482	...	87,075	...	...	...	870,750
eb.	...	126,359	1,966,255	12,457	2,105,071	...	101,699	33,319	...	...	1,183,585
Mar	832	105,183	1,383,526	12,542	1,502,083	42,729	91,377	...	...	...	1,768,350
Apr.	130	204,983	1,569,572	3,356	1,778,041	72,741	...	...	...	23,680	1,478,500
May	165	146,920	2,345,475	3,526	2,496,086	155,000	...	...	...	...	3,100,000
une	505	134,899	1,987,894	15,416	2,138,714	115,704	...	2,647	5,253	...	2,340,447½
uly	...	27,186	2,559,317	16,390	2,602,893	84,811	11,300	16,723	14,000	...	1,927,835
Aug.	3,073	82,184	3,271,694	3,228	3,360,179	84,942	...	...	35,120	45,465	1,832,105
Sept.	2,481	151,829	3,283,636	1,437	3,439,383	109,744	...	11,802	56,400	117,410	2,512,300
Oct.	1,330	69,350	3,428,791	14,101	3,513,572	118,599	...	...	69,830	122,500	2,669,055
Nov.	640	27,148	4,430,018	5,831	4,463,637	196,170	...	...	27,320	94,800	4,086,500
Dec.	1,000	30,000	4,440,000	9,000	4,480,000	189,821	...	...	45,000	78,098	3,987,018
otals	10,156	1,236,695	31,659,835	108,455	33,015,141	1,170,261	291,457	64491	252,923	481,953	27,756,445½

SILVER

	DEPOSITES				COINAGE					
	Foreign Coins	Foreign Bullion	United States Bullion	Total Silver deposited	Dollars	Half Dollars	Quarter Dollars	Dimes	Half Dimes	Total Silver coined
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Pieces	Dollars
n	43,696	1,501	7,716	52,913	...	55,000	...	...	121,000	33,550
eb.	12,233	3,244	14,221	29,698	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mar	87,112	1,714	10,881	99,707	...	30,000	25,200	80,000	110,000	34,800
Apr.	23,674	2,145	11,579	37,398	...	...	...	250,000	38,000	26,900
May	29,115	1,526	16,599	47,240	...	16,000	32,000	235,000	48,000	41,900
une	[illegible]	[illegible]	18,235	48,238	7,500	16,000	6,000	217,500	146,000	40,050
uly	38,436	1,110	18,560	58,106	...	26,000	...	113,500	...	24,350
Aug.	4,612	17,210	26,271	48,093	...	...	...	143,000	60,000	17,300
Sept.	9,618	21,927	23,882	55,427	...	84,000	60,800	327,500	...	89,950
Oct.	26,053	1,460	24,821	52,334	...	...	...	275,000	142,000	34,600
Nov.	14,882	21,302	32,350	68,534	...	...	...	175,000	...	17,500
Dec.	8,150	1,883	27,500	37,533	...	...	66,800	115,000	290,000	42,700
otals	327,273	75,333	232,615	635,221	7,500	227,000	190,800	1,931,500	955,000	409,600

The Copper Coinage was, in cents 4,426,844; in half cents 39,812. Value $44,467½,

king a total Coinage, in gold, Silver & copper, of 10,029,505 pieces. Value $28,210,513

2. You inquire, secondly, how much of said bullion shall remain uncoined on the 1st of Jany 1851.

A reference to the deposites & coinage stated in the foregoing table will show that the balance of the gold and silver deposites remaining uncoined was \$5,484,316½. In a subsequent part of this communication I shall present some explanations which I trust you will not deem inappropriate, in regard to the causes which have originated the large balance thus stated. At present I shall confine myself to the special inquiries you have directed to me.

3. You ask me to state the alterations, enlargements and additions to the apparatus and coining machinery of this Mint made in 1851, or now in progress, or contemplation, with a detailed statement of their objects, nature, actual or estimated cost, and to specify the appropriations from which such expenditures are to be respectively defrayed.

Prior to the discovery of the California gold region, the deposites of the Mint consisted almost altogether of foreign coins, fit to be melted at once into ingots, after an admixture of fine metal, or alloy, requisite to bring them to our standards. Our apparatus & force for the preparation of ingots of this character, to any extent which might be required of us, were ample. So, too, were our means of converting such ingots into coin.

But the California gold was of such a character & amount as to make necessary extensive changes in the nature of our operations. It was found to contain a large admixture of silver, above one part in ten being of that metal. As we are prohibited by law from allowing more than one twentieth of silver as alloy in gold ingots, it was requisite that a separation of the superfluous silver from the gold should be effected. This operation is almost altogether a chemical one, and complicated, troublesome & tedious. At foreign Mints it is, I believe altogether, declined; while the law has made it a part of the duty of our own Mints, but few private refineries having been established, competent to the work, in this country.

The separating, or (as it is generally termed) refining department of this mint, at the close of 1848, when the California gold was first deposited, has been estimated by Prof. R. L. Mc Culloh, the Melter & Refiner then in office, to have been competent to a work of only $100,000 a month. This amount, however inconsiderable, was much more than sufficient to meet any demands made on us prior to that time. But the actual & probable receipts from California having made it apparent that an extensive enlargement in our refinery had become necessary, I committed to the Melter & Refiner the power of action. He determined to abandon the apparatus which was in use, & introduce new arrangements, by which he might avail himself of the heating power of Steam.

You are not, I presume desirous of minute descriptions of the apparatus employed. I therefore simply state that by Sept. 1849. his arrangements were complete, & the refining capacity of the Mint had been increased to about one million of dollars per month, much exceeding the rate of our deposites of mixed bullion up to that time.

The California production still continuing to increase, successive enlargements, alterations, & improvements in our apparatus were effected, & the space allotted to the separating department was enlarged. These changes were effected under the supervision of Prof. Jas. C. Booth, who had succeeded Mr McCulloh in the Office of Melter & Refiner. By March 1850. the refining capacity had reached to $ 2 000,000 per month

We had discovered, by this time, that to increase our refining power very appreciably beyond the amount already reached, the space occupied must be further extended & the supply of steam enlarged.

appropriation to meet the objects indicated, & for other alterations & improvements in the Mint, including a new engine, a chimney, rolls &c. The appropriation was made on the 15th of May, & by October the improvements had so far progressed as to admit the steam from the new boilers into the refinery. By this & other means the refining capacity had been extended to near $ 5,000,000 a month.

Having thus referred to the extent & character of the improvements already effected, I will add that the improvements contemplated & in progress have in view an enlargement of the apparatus already employed, by taking an additional space into the refinery. The necessary changes will not occupy, I am informed more than three or four weeks. When completed the refining capacity will have reached to from six to seven millions of dollars per month

In the coining department no changes of a marked character have been made, none having been necessary. A new press, engine, & rolls, are in process of construction

The cost of the improvements above referred to cannot be stated with accuracy The charges for repairs, & those for new apparatus, are mixed together in single bills, & could not be separated without great difficulty, perhaps not at all. The special appropriation for these improvements was for $ 24,800, which will probably all be exhausted. An addition to that sum of some $ 12,000 would, I have reason to believe, cover all other expenses incident to our introduction of new apparatus.

With the exception of the special appropriation with that for assaying) has been thought capable of improvement, & plans for that end have been patented. At the suggestion of the Secretary of the Treasury, some experiments on the new methods have been tried at the Mint; but as yet they have not proved successful. The experiments will be still further continued. Our Melter & Refiner has much confidence in a favorable result, in which event he states that he is "satisfied that we shall have space enough in the Mint to refine much more than by the present methods, & unattended by the inconvenience of the abundant acid fumes necessarily consequent upon it."

I now proceed, in compliance with my promise, to give some explanations in regard to the causes which have kept the coinage of the past year so much in arrear of the deposites.

One of the causes is that several weeks must always elapse before a deposite can pass through the various stages requisite to convert it into coin. If therefore an immense deposite takes place at the close of a year the coinage which is returned therefor cannot reasonably be expected until the following year. Instead of comparing the whole coinage of 1850 with the whole deposites of the same year, ~~it is more~~ it is more just to compare the coinage of 1850 with the deposites say from the 10th Dec. 1849 to 10 Dec. 1850. The deposites & coinage of gold during the periods thus indicated were $30,360,000 & $27,756,445, respectively, so that the balance against us by a fair comparison, is $2,603,555 instead of $5,258,696, as it would seem on a superficial view.

Another cause of the disparity between the deposites & coinage has been made manifest in my reply to the 3d query. You have seen that between December 1848 & December 1850 the refining capacity of the Mint has been enlarged from an estimated amount of $100,000 a month to $5,000,000 a month or more than fifty fold. To attain the power of refining this large amount, we have not only been obliged to make constant changes, improvements, & alterations in the existing apparatus, but to have a new building erected within the Mint, and new space added to the refinery. In every change some time was invariably lost; the delay in the erection of the new building was greater than we could have anticipated; and the deposites from California had increased steadily & enormously. The result was, as you have observed an inability to keep pace with the deposites.

We have at last, I am confident, overcome all our difficulties, having reached to a present refining capacity of five millions a month which will be increased in a few weeks to from six to seven millions. I have no reason to believe that our deposites per month will reach this amount, so that I anticipate that we shall be able, in the course of this year, perhaps in a few months, to return to the system of prompt payment.

Some explanation is due in regard to the uncoined balance of silver.

The cause already adverted to, arising out of the time which must elapse before deposites find their way into coin, is of course applicable as a partial explanation of this balance. Another is, that a very large proportion of silver received by us comes mixed with the California gold, the amount of such silver in the past year, having exceeded $230,000. Now although the mint is charged with the total of that amount, yet a certain portion of it is not extracted from the gold, but permitted to remain in the coin as silver alloy. The amount used for this purpose during the past year has exceeded $60,000. Another explanation of the uncoined balance of silver may found in the fact that silver is largely used as *material* in the process of refining. Mixed gold bullion, before it goes into the separating department has to be combined with from two to three times its mass of silver. These several explanations in regard to the silver balance, will I trust be deemed satisfactory. To the depositors of silver proper we are not materially in arrear.

I trust that you will excuse me for requesting that you will not authorize a publication of the table of deposite & coinage which I have presented above. It is, as I have explained, still incomplete, though it, no doubt, nearly approximates to what will be the actual result. In about two weeks I shall present my annual report to the President, which will contain complete and reliable statistics.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
(Signed) R. M. Patterson
Director.

Hon. Jas G. King
H. R.
Washington.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Jan. 8th. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the second inst., enclosing for my opinion, an application made to you by Mr. Geo. W. Edelman, a Clerk for the Treasurer of the Mint, for compensation for certain advantages presented to the Mint by his method of calculating gold deposites.

He states that the paper in which he enters his results is now substituted for the abstract required for the department, and asks "to be remunerated for this latter advantage, because the preparation of the abstract has formerly demanded much labor and time, and is entirely distinct from the duties connected with his department."

The circumstances under which the old form of abstract was dispensed with are as follows.

Mr. Edelman, as the Clerk having charge of the calculations of deposites, kept a book in which he entered the numbers of the deposites, – their weight before melting, – fineness, – standard weight, – the gross ~~weight~~ value of the predominant metal, – the fineness of other

(metal

metal contained, – its standard weight and value, – the items of deduction, – and the net value.

The particulars which I have underscored, (namely the gross value of the predominant metal, – the value of the metal contained, – the deductions and the net value,) it was his duty to enter on a form attached to the Assayer's Report, and to affix his signature thereto. This paper was necessary in the preparation of the Mint-Register, the Director's Warrants, and the Abstract for the Treasurer's Account.

It was suggested that if Mr. Edelman's record of Calculations was modified so as to introduce a Column for Depositors' names, the following useful results would be effected.

~~1. By means of a press this record~~

1. His record would serve as a substitute for the Abstract of Deposites to be sent to Washington.

2. By means of a press this record would be copied, page by page, into a separate book to be kept in the Mint.

3. Mr. Edelman himself would thus be enabled to dispense with the entry of the particulars of value on the Assay Report, since these particulars would be as conveniently obtained from the press copy just referred to.

On the 21st of October last, I requested permission from the Department to make the modifications in the forms necessary to effect these objects, and the authority was accordingly obtained.

If my explanations have been intelligible, it is apparent that Mr. Edelman has, on the one hand, been released from the labor of filling up and signing a report relative to the particulars of value of each deposite, while, on the other hand, he is required to prepare a column with the names of our depositors.

I am unable to perceive that Mr. Edelman's labors have been in any manner increased by this change, and I must, therefore, express an opinion adverse to his claims for compensation.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.
Assistant Secretary.
Washington.

Mint of the United States

13 Jan. 1851

Sir,

I herewith return the letter of Mr. Brady which was enclosed with yours of the 8th.

At your request I have written to Mr. Brady on the subject of his communication, stating the legal difficulties in the way of exchanging one American coin for another, at the Mint, and suggesting as the only method by which his object could be effected in a regular manner, drafts in his favor on our bullion fund, payable in gold dollars.

A former communication from me will have shewn how inconvenient this method would be to the Mint, both by reason of its trenching upon our bullion fund, so important at this time, & also by its requiring a transfer of our coinage operations to pieces of much trouble & small value.

Considering the present & prospective scarcity of small change, growing out of the enhanced value of silver, it appears to me that creditors at large, & the post offices at all events, would be justified in requiring that the exact sums due to them shall be tendered in payment. Surely there is no legal obligation to receive, for example, a double eagle in payment of a debt of five cents; and if not, then why any other coin than the precise half-dime? It would be no real hardship to the community to be compelled to keep by them the small change necessary to defray postages.

I shall address the department to morrow in reference to our experiments on Mr. McCulloh's process of parting. We are so entirely without blame in this particular that I assure you I have never been officially informed what the process is, nor requested to make the slightest examination in regard to it.

Very respy. &c &c

R. M. Patterson,
Director

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.

Mint of the United States
14 Jan. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your communication of the 11th inst. in which you express the desire of the department that the methods of refining gold patented by Prof. McCulloh & Mr. Booth should be tested at the Mint with as little delay as possible, and state that the delay in testing Mr. McCulloh's process had been the cause of many complaints being presented to the department.

On the 16th ult. I stated to ~~the~~ you that the experiments referred to *had* been prosecuted at the Mint, but that the results had not proved satisfactory. I now enclose a letter from our Melter & Refiner, in which he states fully the steps which have been taken by him in the matter, and the reasons why no report from the Mint can yet be made. From this letter it appears, that all the experiments consistent with our regular operations have been tried; that they have not, thus far, proved successful; and that a final & decisive experiment may be expected within a week or ten days from this date.

It is proper that I should mention, that altho' the processes proposed by Mr. Booth & Mr. McCulloh are distinct in their nature, & were separately patented, yet they agreed to unite their interests. It is, therefore apparent, that Mr. Booth has every inducement to prove the feasibility of either or both of them, & their superiority over the present methods. In committing to him the experiments requisite for this end, I, therefore, had the fullest assurances, not only from his official energy & integrity, but from the mere promptings of his private interests, that the work would be properly done.

If no success has yet resulted, the cause is to be attributed, not to the lack of experiments, but to the imperfection of the processes themselves, when tried on a large scale. They have both, no doubt, been successful in the labratory, but that by no means proves that they will be equally so in the great scale required by our operations. The plan of Mr. Mc. Culloh has not yet furnished ingots fit for the operations of Coinage. Whether an improvement which has been suggested will amend this defect, will be proved in the experiments yet to be made.

It seems hardly necessary that I should assure the department of my anxiety to introduce into the Mint every possible improvement by which our operations may be facilitated; but I think I ~~was~~ should have been held entirely without excuse had I suspended the active prosecution of the processes already at our command for the purpose of experimenting on others which were doubtful & untried. So far any experiments were consistent with the necessary operations of the Mint they have been prosecuted; it was not expected, I suppose, that they should go farther.

It is proper to add, in conclusion, that prior to your letter ~~of~~ to which this is a reply, the Department has never referred Mr. Mc Culloh's process to me for examination. The experiments which have been tried, although as thorough as if a reference had been expressly made, have been prosecuted on my own responsibility.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of Treasury.

Melting & Refining Dept., U. S. Mint.
Philada. 13. Jan. 1851.

Dear Sir,

In reply to the queries you addressed to me in relation to various operations in my Dept., permit me in the first place to refer you to my letter of 20th Dec. 50, which sets forth concisely & clearly the cause of delays in the Refining operations of my Dept., & shows that a great degree of energy has attended our operations, unprecedented in the annals of Gold-Refining.

In the 2nd place, in reply to the query touching the experiments on the new processes proposed, I offer the following historical view of my operations & experiments.

1. From the moment of entering upon the duties of my Office, I was impressed with the view that a new process of refining was desirable, & after much reflection, tried many experiments with variable success. About the close of Spring I found one, which I believed to be successful, & on writing to Mr. McCulloh, who I was informed had also a new process, learned that I had rediscovered his process. Upon further experiments with it on a large scale, I met with less success, as it left the gold in such a brittle state as to be valueless to the coiner. Nor did the expedient proposed by Mr. McCulloh, by using muriatic acid, prove successful in removing the brittleness. I then reverted to experiments I had made in Dec. 49. & succeeded in evolving a new process for which a patent was issued in Sept. 1850. I then united with Mr. McCulloh to offer both or either process to the Govt. Instructions having been recd. from you to test my process, as I believe you were instructed by the Secy. of the Treasury to do,

Hon. R. M. Patterson,

I immediately devoted myself to testing them both experimentally on a scale of sufficient magnitude to warrant a decisive opinion on their merits as compared with the present process. I have not omitted any opportunity of experimenting on them both, agreeably to your instructions, from that time (early in October) to the present time.

2. To give you some account of the difficulties attendant upon these experiments, I must recall to your mind the circumstances of the last three months. The quantity of gold deposited has increased rapidly, & required untiring exertions to bring up the working capacity of the Mint to meet the demand. Now had I taken off my men from the usual routine of work, to experiment, the indebtedness of the mint would have increased by many millions over what it is at this moment, which would have brought deserved censure on the Officers of the Mint & on the Govt by implication. I felt deeply that my duty to the Govt was paramount to every other, even to my own interest in the new processes, and therefore I have given my men double duty to perform, to experiment on the new processes, & not to diminish the yield of my Dept in refined gold.

3. It is a mistake to suppose that Mr McCulloh's process has not been tried. It has been tried again & again, & the methods of toughening the gold varied, without success. One of the difficulties of experimenting has been the necessity of altering the apparatus to meet the increased deposites, & the danger of having a large number of carpenters & masons present, who are not operatives in the Mint, & who required room for their necessary alterations. These alterations have occurred several times during the last three months, & occupied altogether not less than six weeks.

4. You ask whether ~~it~~ the process could not be tested in a short time.

I answer ~~that~~ neither process can be tested under one or two weeks, on a scale of sufficient magnitude to warrant a positive opinion, unless the operations of the mint were stopped. A large number of experiments on each process has now been tried, & with promise of success, so that, when the present arrangements shall have been completed, it is probable a definite opinion on them could be given in less than a week. There is no doubt that, had not the imperative character of the law required me to close my gold accounts for the last year, the experiments would have been concluded before this time. As this required me to deliver up all the gold in my possession into the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, to make a settlement, & determine my wastage, it is evident that experiments could not be instituted at that time. The energy with which the operations of the Mint have been conducted is shown by the little delay experienced between the time when operations ceased on the old account & began on the new, & that too while important modifications were going forward to facilitate the Refining of the largest quantities, which may probably be recd. On this point please refer to my letter of Dec. 20. 50.

5. Mr McCulloh proposed a new plan for remedying the defect of his process, which succeeded on a small scale, but to test which on a working scale, required a large cupel furnace. There was no place in the mint in which such a furnace could have been erected, until some time in December 1850, when the new building in the mint being completed, I was put in possession of a space wherein to extend my operations, & where I immediatily commenced erecting such a furnace, & making such improvements as would be adapted to any process that might be adopted. There im-

provements have been pushed forward with unusual activity, so that I believe we shall be able to use them within four or five days.

6. Although we are able to work by the present process as much gold as is likely to be brought to the Mint, yet I think it would be desirable to have another process, if superior to the present. It should be less costly, in which respect Mr McC's is superior to the present, & mine is superior to his.

If it is to be used in California, or where it would be difficul to procure a supply of acid, then Mr McC's is better than the present, & mine requires still less acid than his.

It should take as little or even less time than the present meth in which respect, his process, I believe to be superior to the other

It would be desirable to work it without the use of silver, in which both our processes are better than the present.

It is desirable to have a process, which shall throw off little or no acid fumes, & in this point mine is better than the present, & Mr McC's better than either.

The difficulty remaining in my process is to shorten the time in order to make it much superior to the present process.

The difficulty in Mr McC's process is obtaining a toughened gol adapted to the Coiner's use.

Both these difficulties may probably be solved within a week or ten days from the present date.

I have thought it not improper, dear Sir, to offer a few remarks not called for in your queries, & submit the whole for your consideration

With Respect & Esteem
dear Sir, yours truly
Ja C Booth

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

Mint of the United States,
21 Jan'y 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday desiring me to furnish some information relative to the deposites of U.S. Silver at the Mint, conformably to a request of Mr. Foster, U.S. Geologist, whose letter was enclosed. In reply I have to present the following statement.

The deposites of U.S. bullion at this Mint in the past year, amounted to $232,684

Of which there was derived from N.C. $6,849.
from L. Superior 3,277
Cal^{a} gold 222,558 232,684

The amount deposited at New Orleans, and which was altogether derived from the parting of California Gold, was 36,569

The total Silver of U.S. production, therefore, was 269,253

I may mention that there were deposites of silver in 1849, & in the present year, stated to be from New Mexico, the amounts being, in the former year $15,884, in this year $4,482. We have always supposed that New Mexico had no silver production, and that these deposites were in fact derived from Old Mexico. They have not, therefore, been included in the above statement.

I should

I should be pleased if Mr. Foster could furnish me any authentic information as to this matter.

very respectfully
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of Treasy.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia January 22d. 1851.

Sir,

I had the honor of addressing you on the 30th. ulto., and not having received a reply to my letter (which I fear has not reached you,) I beg leave to enclose a copy of it, and to solicit an answer at your Convenience.

It may be proper for me to add, that I have calculated and entered the values of 700 deposites of gold, during the last 8 days, by means of the system referred-to, in my former communication, so that the original paper, upon which the calculations are made, serves as a substitute for the Abstract formerly required for the Department.

As this system has cost me much time and labor in bringing it to perfection, and as the Mint has the advantage of it with reference to its dispensing with the necessity of writing out an Abstract, (a result which no other system, ever employed in the Mint, could attain) I pray that you will authorise a compensation to be awarded me for this advantage.

Having conferred with the Director of the Mint in relation to this matter, who acknowledges the justice of my claim for compensation but states he has not the power of satisfying it, I have taken the liberty of submitting it for your kind Consideration.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your Obt. Servant,
Geo. W. Edelman,
Treasurer's Office. Clerk

To
Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

Copy.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, December 30th 1850.

Sir,

I beg leave to solicit your attention to a brief statement respecting an improvement I have made in the calculations of the gold deposites, and I respectfully ask, that a proper compensation may be allowed me, for the advantage accruing to the Mint from the use of this improvement.

My method enables me so to suit the operation and results, that the paper, upon which they are entered, is copied by the press and substituted for the Abstract required for the Department.

I ask to be remunerated for this latter advantage, because the preparation of the Abstract has formerly demanded much labor and time, and is entirely distinct from the duties connected with my department.

As this improvement has had two months trial at the Mint, during which I have calculated and entered 2000 deposites and proved the correctness of the calculations, an opportunity is thus afforded of judging of its utility.

I have taken the liberty of troubling you with this matter, with the hope that you will authorise such compensation to be awarded me as may, in your judgement, seem proper.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your Obt. Servt.
Geo. W. Edelman,
Treasurer's Office—Clerk.

To/
Hon. Thos. Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

(Private.)

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia, Jan. 23, 1857.

Dear Sir,

I send herewith an Official letter, to ask that the President will appoint, for the approaching Annual Assay, the Commissioners whom he is authorized to designate, in addition to the Commissioners ex officio, — namely the District Judge, the District Attorney, and the Collector of the Port.

I hope I may be excused for following the practice heretofore observed, by the Director of the Mint, of respectfully suggesting to the President, through the Secretary of the Treasury, the names of individuals deemed proper to be selected for the occasion. I accordingly offer the following to his consideration.

Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll, of Philadelphia.

Prof. Edward Hitchcock, President of the Amherst College, Massachusetts.

Stephen Colwell, Esq. of Philadelphia

Charles B. Trego, Esq., a gentleman of high scientific attainments.

Daniel B. Smith, of Philadelphia, a scientific and practical Chemist.

David M. Stone, Esq., of New York, and one of the editors of the Journal of Commerce. I am not acquainted with Mr. Stone, but know that his money articles are in much repute.

The number of additional Commissioners recommended is greater than heretofore, in consequence of the increased amount of duty that will fall upon them.

It is of great importance that the nominations should be made with the least possible delay.

Most respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States.
Philadelphia,
January 23d, 1851.

Sir,

The Annual Assay at the Mint is to be held on the 10th of next month, and I have the honor ~~of~~ respectfully to request that you will ask the attention of the President to the appointment of the additional Commissioners provided for by the 22d section of the Act of Jan: 18, 1837.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To/
Hon. Thomas Corwin.
Secretary of the Treasury.

1801

Washington January 23d 1851

Sir,

Copies of your letters of Sept. 10th 1850, and of the 11th inst. to the Director of the Mint, instructing him to have trials made of processes for refining gold, as well as copies of his reply to you of the 14th inst., and of an enclosed communication of Prof. Booth of the 13th inst. having been furnished to me, for my information, I feel called upon to submit the following observations for your consideration

In the first place, the statement of the Director that, prior to your letter of the 11th inst., the Department never referred Mr. McCulloh's process to him for examination, appears somewhat inconsistent with the fact that, in the instructions to him in your letter of Sept. 10th 1850, you requested him to compare the proposed plan of Prof. Booth in all results with *every other* used or *known* at the Mint; for my process was then known to him and to Prof. Booth, the melter and refiner of the Mint.

I would respectfully invite your attention to the circumstance that, in the reply of the Director of the Mint, he has taken leave altogether of the expressed wish of the Department, that the methods of refining gold invented respectively by Prof. Booth and myself should be tested *in the presence of both parties*: — and that, he has not reported, as by you requested to do, when he can enter upon such a trial, and the probable time it will require; — but ~~that~~ has, in avoidance of these instructions concluded that trial of these inventions need not be made in the presence of both parties, erroneously assuming that my presence is and will be unnecessary even in trials which he proposes shall be deemed final and decisive, as the interest, integrity & energy of Mr. Booth may and should be regarded as giving the fullest assurance that the work will be properly done in my absence, — and de facto maintaining that a trial of either invention in my presence would be wholly useless, notwithstanding your express instructions that both should be so tried without delay

Although, the Director of the Mint treats the fact of an union of interests, as a reason why the experiments, made in the Mint on the aforesaid methods, have been confided independently to Prof. Booth; yet, as that union was based upon averments of Prof. Booth that his process of refining was more efficient and economical than any other known method, of course ~~my~~ including my own antecedent invention, — whereas it now appears from letters of the Director of the Mint as well as of Prof. Booth, that he has not met with success in trying his own method, — there would certainly be an eminent propriety in my being permitted to judge for myself, by observation, of the nature and degree of the defects of the process of Mr. Booth; especially as I have been and still am kept in ignorance thereof, after having repeatedly requested information of him.

And if my own method, which I know to be efficient if Prof. Booth, after varied experiments, has failed to work it upon a large scale, there certainly was more than sufficient reason for its being tried in my presence, and according to the specification of my patent. That much time may have been spent in unsuccessful experimenting is very probable, but my invention should not be considered defective, because of its mismanagement by others.

In suggesting to you that an immediate trial of both processes should be made in my presence, the fact of my being at leisure, owing to a vacation in the College with which I am connected, was taken into consideration by me. Now that vacation is about to close, and I must again enter upon the active performance of my official duties.

In my letter to you of the 1st inst. I remarked, that: "the Mint at New Orleans is not provided with a large "cupelling furnace, and other apparatus suitable for a "trial upon a large scale, but that such has not been "the case at the Mint in Philadelphia". This declaration of mine appears to be directly at variance with the statement of Prof. Booth, in his communication of the 13th inst. to the Director of the Mint, which is as follows: "Mr. McCulloh proposed a new plan for remedying "the defect of his process, which succeeded on a small scale, "but to test which on a working scale required a large "cupel furnace. There was no place in the Mint in "which such a furnace could have been erected until "some time in December 1850," &c. I must, therefore, remark that I left a large cupelling furnace in the mint; that, in a letter of Sept.r 23.d 1850 to Prof. Booth, I requested him to use it, if he should try my process; that, when I saw him in October last, he objected to the use of such means, not, however, because of any alleged want of a proper furnace; and that, if it is now necessary to erect a new furnace to try my method, the old one must have been pulled down, and most probably since I made that request.

Again, as in the Specification of my patent I use the language: "Finally, the operations are terminated by cupelling the refined gold, or melting it with such fluxes as borax, nitre, &c."; — I cannot imagine why Prof. Booth should speak of this operation of Cupelling as "a new plan for remedying" an imaginary "defect" of my process; nor why the Director should call it "an improvement suggested to remedy a defect". Cupellation forms part of my original patented method, — the part to which Prof. Booth objected, — and which, if it is now about to be tried by him, as it might & should have been six months ago, is a recourse to remedy the defect, not of my patented invention, but of his own experimental proceedings thereon, since July 1850. In another passage of his letter, he says: "nor did the expedient proposed "by Mr McCulloh, by using muriatic acid prove "successful in removing the brittleness;" — on this, I should remark that I do not recollect ever to have made such a proposition, which, as a chemist, I should have deemed inadmissible.

As Prof. Booth has said that he experimented from the time of entering upon the duties of his office in December, 1849, being "impressed with the view that a new process of refining was desirable"; and as I had discovered a new method, which, by letter addressed to the Director of the Mint on the 11th of February 1850, I offered to the Government, but receiving no reply thereto; it may be proper that I should remark that, when Prof. Booth believed he had discovered a new proceſs, as he has stated, he wrote to me on the 29th of June 1850, proposing a union of interests, and adding that his "object was not for the Mint", but that he "intended to engage some friends in Philad.a to carry out the refining on a large scale". Of the experiments upon my method which "left the gold in such a brittle state as to be valueleſs to the Coiner", I should say that they were improperly tried in the Mint, in July 1850, in my absence, and without my concurrence, or instructions, and that the imperfect results obtained should have been promptly communicated to me; but this was not done, until after Prof. Booth had evolved his new proceſs, and had made application, dated Aug.t 5th 1850, for letters patent therefor, which were iſsued to him in September, the Director of the Mint having urged prompt action thereupon.

And as the subsequent experiments of Prof. Booth, both with his own patented proceſs and with mine, have hitherto been unſucceſsful, I should likewise remark that, in so far as they relate to my method, he has varied them as he alone saw fit, neither following the specification of my patent, nor heeding my views and wishes expreſsed to himself; and that of such experiments, there may have been enough, perhaps more than enough.

In Conclusion, since in compliance with my request copies of letters to and of the replies from the Director of the Mint have been furnished to me by the Department, among which I find your letter of the 11th inst., instructing the Director to try the aforesaid inventions in the presence of both Mr Booth & myself, and ~~for~~ third, justly and substantially according what I had asked in my letter to you of Dec.^{r} 23.^{d} 1850, — it seems right that I should state that, subsequently to the last mentioned date, several letters have passed between Prof. Booth & myself, and that I should herewith present copies thereof for your further information

Very respectfully
Your Ob.^{t} Ser.^{t}
R. S. McCulloh

Hon. Thos. Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury

Treasury Department
December 1850

Sir,

You are hereby requested to cause trial to be immediately made of the method of refining gold patented by Prof R. S. McCulloh under his direction, by skilful workmen detailed for the purpose at his request, and in the presence of Prof. James C. Booth, as well as of the method patented by Prof James C. Booth under his direction and in the presence of Prof R. S. McCulloh. These trials to be conducted under the superintendence of the Treasurer, the Assayer and the Engraver of the Mint, and to be reported to you without delay. which report I desire to have transmitted to me with any views of your own which you may consider important and appropriate.

Very Respectfully
Your Obdt. Svt.

Secretary of the Treasury

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint.

(Copy)

Washington January 3d 1851

My dear Sir,

As it is more than a month since you assured me that you would be able, in the course of a week, to report to me the results of your experiments on refining gold; and as I have not received such a report; I have to request that you will now furnish it.

Very respectfully, Your Ob.t Ser.t

Prof. J. C. Booth

R. S. McCulloh

(Copy)

Philad.a 4 Jan. 1851

Dear Sir,

I should have been able to make a report upon the processes before this time, had not the imperative character of the law required me to render up all the gold in my hands to the Treasurer in order to ascertain the sum of my Dep.t; — while at the same time the deposite of 5 millions in Dec. pressed upon me to go forward. I could make a report now, but as it would not be satisfactory I am sure you dont wish it any more than I do. I am erecting a test furnace with a hearth 3½ ft. square by which I can test your process fully, and my reason for not erecting it before was that it would have seriously interfered with the work of the Mint. The furnace is nearly built, and I believe from appearances that I can try it by the close of next week, but not before.

Very respectfully yours,

Prof. R. S. McCulloh (Signed) Jas. C. Booth

Washington City, D.C.

(Copy)

Washington January 10th 1851

Dear Sir,

I regret to have received from you the reply contained in your letter of the 4th inst. More than three months have now elapsed, since, in reliance upon your assurances that you had discovered a better and cheaper method of refining gold even than my own, I entered into an agreement with you to unite the two. And it would now seem that, instead of establishing the efficacy of your method sufficiently to satisfy even the Director of the Mint that he should advise the Government to acquire the right to use the same, in pursuance of his views of the great public importance of such an improvement, as set forth in his letter ~~to the Commissioner~~ of Septr. 5th 1850 to the Commissioner of Patents, — you have been enlarging the arrangements for refining by the old, costly and slow process, to a two or three fold extent, and of course at considerable expense.

If your process is what you have stated it to be, I cannot comprehend the course you have pursued; for increasingly heavy deposites have only constituted an urgent reason, why a cheaper and more efficient method should have supplanted the one in use, rather than that the latter should be perpetuated and expanded.

If, on the contrary, your process is attended with difficulties, you owe it to yourself as well as to me, by reason of the aforesaid assurances to communicate them to me promptly, fully and unreservedly; and I now request you to do so.

Of my own process, I will only say that I have forborne to press it, for I expected you to adopt your own, pronounced by you to be superior; although I have known mine to be one which at any time may be shown in 48 hours to be all that is needed, as it has been successfully tried by myself, affirmed to be efficient & valuable by you, and since established by confirmatory trials made by others.

There is a grave and serious responsibility somewhere, in relation to this matter, which my interests may require me to probe to the bottom.

Very respectfully yours

Richd McCulloh

Prof. J. C. Booth

4

(Copy)

Philad^a 14 Jan. 1857

Dear Sir,

By way of reply to your letter of the 10th inst. rec^d yesterday, and because of my being much occupied, I must refer you to ~~my~~ former letters for my reasons for continuing the old process, where I refer to a twofold duty, the one to the Gov^t, and the other to myself, the former of which is paramount, where I state that neither process had yet been sufficiently freed from difficulties to give a favorable report thereon, that I have repeatedly experimented on both processes, and that I would again experiment on them as soon as my accts. for the year were closed. You have been made fully aware of the difficulties of experimenting in a confined space, where frequent alterations have been necessary; and you are unquestionably mistaken in supposing you could satisfy any one in 48 hours of the superiority of your process. For to carry it out on a working scale, even where all the apparatus is ready to your hand, it will require a week's time, and you must be aware that such apparatus is not yet ready. There has been no place in the Mint where a test of sufficient size could be erected, until within a few weeks, and the moment the place was afforded, the erection of a furnace was commenced. It is now nearly Completed.

It is wholly unnecessary to enter into detail in relation to the difficulties I have met with in carrying out your process or mine on a working Scale, for want of time Compels me to be brief. Unless I am deceived in each of them, I can report on them both next week and favorably.

Altho' I do not by any means agree with you as to the very inferior Character of the present process, yet there are quite Sufficient reasons why another, if better, should be adopted; and my enlargement of the working Capacity of the Mint in refining will by no means interfere with the desirableness or Convenience of introducing another, for all the Changes I have made are of such a nature as to be applicable to any of the three processes in view.

Very respectfully yours
Prof. R. S. McCulloh (Signed) Jas. C. Booth
Washington City, D.C.

Washington
January 21st 1857

My dear Sir,

In your letter to me of the 14th inst., you have stated that: "there has been no place in the Mint where a test of Sufficient Size could be erected and the moment the place was afforded, the erection of a furnace was commenced". Yet, I left in the Mint a large test or cupelling furnace, with which I have repeatedly cupelled about $25,000 of Silver, as an ordinary day's work, and which would, therefore, have worked $250,000 @ $500,000 of gold in a day. And in my letter to you of September 23d 1850, I requested you to use that furnace, if you should try my method of refining gold.

I remember, that, when I met you early in October last at Jones' Hotel, the use of a test for toughening, as proposed by me, was objected to by you for the supposed reason that gold might escape into the flue and be lost. And in your letter to me of Novr. 25th 1850, you stated that, having objected to the method of toughening proposed, you had been trying others. But, I have yet to learn from you why it should have been found necessary to erect a new furnace, merely for the purpose of trying my process, if the old test furnace is still in existence, or has not been torn down since I requested you to employ it; — or, why, if the use of a test or cupelling furnace is at length about to be tried by you, it should be deemed by any one a modification or improvement upon the process specified in my Patent; or why the suggestion of using muriatic acid as a means of obviating bitterness should be ascribed to me, as I have no recollection of having ever proposed, and would have deemed such means objectionable à priori;— and as I do not find any allusion to such a proposition in our correspondence; of which my file is complete, with the exception of copy of a letter of mine (written in reply to yours of Aug^{t} 18th 1850), which you have promised to me,— and of which promise I remind you, that it may now be fulfilled.

In stating that my process may be shown in 48 hours to be all that is needed, I did not assert that I could "satisfy any one of its superiority." For there are persons not far from you, whom I would not expect to be satisfied of such a fact even upon demonstration, and who, after I had left the mint, as I have been informed by you, condemned and would have torn down the apparatus devised and constructed by me, for refining gold by steam, if such a proceeding had not been resisted by you, because it would have stripped you of the power to do your work. But which very apparatus they seem of late to have considered most valuable, and to be greatly enlarged, instead of substituting either your process, which you have pronounced to be so superior in efficiency and economy, or mine which I know to be so, in place of that in use.

I cannot consider any reason sufficient for your continuing to keep me in ignorance of the difficulties which you may have met with in trying your own process upon a large scale. And as you have assured me that you can report on both of the processes favorably this week, unless you are deceived in each of them ~~both~~, I must in the absence of such information, regard any omission to do so as evidence, not of the want of requisite apparatus, but of inefficiency in your own process

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Sert.

(Signed) Richard S. McCulloh

Prof. Jas. C. Booth
Melter & Refiner of the
U. S. Mint &c.

Mint of the United States
24 Jany 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st in which you call my attention to the necessity of increasing the supply of the smaller gold coins issued from the Mint, as far it can properly be done.

In reply I beg leave to state that ~~the~~ within the few past months the issue of such coins has already been greatly increased, and that all practicable means are adopted to proportion the number to the demands of the public. In the present month about half a million in quarter eagles & gold dollars will be struck.

The obstacles we have encountered in a larger issue of these pieces may be understood when I briefly explain, that each gold piece has to be separately weighed & adjusted in a delicate scale, before it is struck. The large amount of our deposites, combined with the sudden demand for the smaller gold pieces, required a proportional increase in the number of scales ~~requisite~~ for the adjusting operations to which I have referred, and the supply of these already in the Mint was exhausted. We have three manufacturers in our employ engaged in the construction of additional scales, and expect to receive from four to five a week till our wants are supplied. As fast as they are received we engage an additional ~~hand~~ adjuster in our service.

Our present adjusting force numbers 38 persons, who will weigh, on the average, 600 pieces each per day, making, for the whole corps, 592,800 per month. Considering the present indebtedness of the Mint, I should think that a present issue of about $500,000 a month in the smaller coins would be prudent, this proportion to be increased, weekly, by the amount which the anticipated additions to our adjusting force will justify. This would allow us, with the means now in our power, to coin about the following proportions:

300,000	Gold Dollars	$300,000
100,000	Quarter Eagles	250,000
192,800	Double Eagles	3,856,000
592,800	pieces of the value	$ 4,406,000

In a month from this time, when our force shall have been increased to some 55 adjusters the proportions might safely be as follows:

400,000	Gold Dollars	$400,000
200,000	Quarter Eagles	500,000
258,000	Double Eagles	5,160,000
858,000	pieces of the value –	$6,060,000

If, under the circumstances of our large indebtedness, both to the government & depositors, the Department shall think the large issues of the double-eagle inexpedient, I should be glad to receive instructions to that effect. If our force must be expended entirely upon the smaller gold coins it is evident that our return to prompt payments, and our ability to release any large portion of our bullion fund, must be postponed for some months beyond the period which would otherwise be requisite.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

P. S. Having been addressed by a member of the Committee on Commerce, of the House of Representatives, relative to the proposed reduction in the weights of our silver coins, I am preparing a reply, ~~at~~ of which I shall have the honor to send you a copy.

Refd. to Mr. Chandler for his opinion
Feby. 4.
M. Fillmore

Approved Feby 6, 1851, Millard Fillmore

Mint of the United States
28 Jany 1851.

Sir,

In consequence of the death of Mr. Edward Sprague, who has for many years ably and faithfully filled an important clerkship in the Mint, it has become my duty to nominate an individual to fill the vacancy thus created.

The duties of the clerkship to be filled are almost entirely confined to the custody & payment, in subordination to the Treasurer, of the moneys of the Mint. I have deemed it but proper, therefore, in the selection of the new clerk, to conform~~ed~~ to the expressed wishes of that officer.

The Treasurer having suggested Mr. George F. Delleker as the individual most acceptable to him, I now respectfully ask the approbation of the President to his appointment to the vacant clerkship. Mr. Delleker has been many years engaged in the Office of the Philada. & Baltimore Rail Road company, and has the strongest recommendations for industry, intelligence, & integrity. I earnestly hope that his nomination will be approved.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasury.

Washington
January 29th 1851

Sir,

Herewith I have the honor to submit for your consideration copies of a letter of the 23d inst., which I have recd. from Prof. Booth, melter & refiner of the Mint at Philada., and of my reply thereto, — Also copy of a telegraphic communication to me of the 25th inst. from the melter & refiner of the branch mint at New Orleans

Very respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
Richd. S. McCulloh

Hon. Thos. Corwin
Secy. of the Treasy.

not within

~~[illegible]~~

Mint of the United States
31 Jan. 1851

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a letter of Aug. Scheller of St. Louis in reference to a parting process which he claims to be superior to the present. I have written to Mr. S. that under the terms of the appropriation bill of last session relative to the purchase of new methods of refining, he should make application to the President through you.

Another experiment on Mr. McCulloh's process has been made, but we failed to procure toughened gold, the furnace constructed for that purpose proving defective. We shall remedy the defect, if possible, and renew the experiment within a few days.

very respectfully,
your faith. servt
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

~~Ans 4 Feby 1851~~

Hon Thomas Corwin.

To the Hon. Direction of the U. S. Mint.
Philadelphia.

St. Louis. Mo. Jan. 20th 1851

Knowing the difficulty in separating & refining the precious metals: gold & silver from alloys, the respectfully undersigned chemist spent a great deal of time and experiments for the discovery of an improved process, by means of which less time and costs might be required and a perfect refinement performed, untill at last he succeeded to find out a method answering in every respect to his intentions and to the purpose. — The notice of the large amounts of California Gold brought to the U. S. Mints induces me to believe that my discovery must be highly profitable to these establishments and I beg leave therefor to call the attention of the Hon. Direction to this matter, mentioning that

1st, the process can be performed with any quantity within 5 – 10 hours and by the help of some 2 – 3 hands;

2d) the costs are less then half of the expenses for the process used till hitherto,

3d, the locality is not required to be larger, but can be even smaller; and at last but not least

4th) that the preparation itself is not connected with any injurious effect to the health, and requires but very cheap materials and apparatus.

While I recommand these four important points to a proper attention, I declare in the same time my intention to dispose of my discovery for the use of the U.S. Mint against an adequate recompensation consisting either in

„a proportional share of the profits made by my improvement, and an annuity"

or „a general remuneration at once".

It is with pleasure I'll give all poſsible farther explanations upon enquiries and I am at liberty to give reference about my character and abilities on Ernest C. Angelrodt, Esq., Consul of Pruſsia, residing in this city.

In case, as I expect and hope, You are inclined to make use of my discovery, I request You, to direct Your answer *as soon as poſsible* under my adreſs either to the beforesaid gentleman or to Postoffice box No. 1276, because I intend to leave St. Louis before next spring for California or Europe.

With the most considerable esteem I have the honor to sign

Yours
obedient servant
Aug. Scheller
Chemist.

Copy. ~~87~~

Mint of the United States.
30. Jan. 1851.

Sir,

In reply to Yours of the 20th inst. I have to say that at the last session of Congress the sum of $25,000 was appropriated to enable the President of the United States to obtain, for the U. S., if he shall deem it expedient to do so, any method of refining argentiferous gold bullion which might be discovered & patented. Your course, therefore, is to make application to the President through the Secretary of the Treasury. A copy of Your letter to me shall immediately be sent to the Department.

Two applicants have already presented their plans & their merits will soon be determined at the Mint. If You desire to enter into the contest no time must be lost. To what extents it will be allowed you, must be determined by the President.

Very respectfully Your obedt. servt.
R. M. Patterson
Director

ry. Scheller. Esq
St. Louis.

Mint of the United States
1 Febr'y 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to send enclosed a copy of a correspondence with Hon. J. Phillips Phonix, of the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, in relation to the silver coinage.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec. of the Treasury.

(Copy.)

Mint of the United States
29. Jan. 1851.

Dear Sir

An unusual pressure of correspondence, during the past week, prevented me from replying, as I had promised, to your letter asking my views relative to the expediency of reducing the value of the silver coin. I shall now however present a few brief considerations upon the subject, and offer to your notice the form of a bill which I have prepared, conformably to your request, as in my judgement best adapted to effect the purposes in view.

The growing scarcity of silver circulation, and the propriety of interposing some legislative remedy to arrest the evils of this state of things, are points on which it is unnecessary to dilate. A few remarks, however, on the proximate cause of our present difficulties seem to be required.

It is well known that gold & silver, like all other products of human labor, are subject to variations in value, both in relation to each other & to other commodities. The same weight of gold will not, in the nature of things, permanently exchange for the same quantity of silver, any more than for the same quantity of cotton or wool.

When the law declares, therefore, that the weight of standard gold contained in the eagle shall be the permanent equivalent of the weight of standard silver contained in ten dollars, it states what the experience of a few years invariably contradicts. There is no more reason to expect a continuance of a fixed relation between certain amounts of gold & silver, than there is to expect the same between silver & zinc, lead & iron, coke & wood.

This indisputable truth has not, however, been thought sufficiently weighty to prevent the adoption, in our own & other countries, of the policy of a double standard of money, whereby gold & silver are both coined, have a certain fixed value, by law, relatively to each other and are made

From,
R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint,
Philadelphia

legal tenders, at those values, in payment of debts to any amount. It was seen that these metals were both admirably adapted to serve the purpose of money, the one being suited to indicate small values, the other for large ones. Both, therefore, were coined, & the values fixed by law, so as to conform to the actual market values of the metals for the time being.

It is easy to see what, under such circumstances, would be the effect of a change in the intrinsic value of either of the metals coined. If gold bullion should become more valuable than it was when the law established its value relatively to silver, the price of silver in the meanwhile being unchanged, a variation would immediately occur between the value in fact & the value in law of the gold coins. The Eagle would be worth ten silver dollars & something more.

In such a state of things the tendency is to offer the less valuable commodity, silver, in payment, the gold being gradually withdrawn from circulation, & melted or exported. If silver should rise in price the reverse effect is produced; the tendency is to withdraw silver from circulation, & export it, or otherwise employ it so as to profit by ~~its~~ the enhancement in its market price as bullion, over that ~~which~~ it has, in law, as coin. I assume of course, that these consequences take place, only where coinage is executed, as with us without charge, so that the coin has no special value from its manufactured condition.

Both the effects above indicated have, as you know, actually occurred in our national experience. Prior to 1834 the gold coin was intrinsically worth more than its legal valuation. Accordingly it disappeared from our currency. Now, the gold is overvalued by law & silver is worth more than its established equivalent in gold coins. The contraction in the silver currency is a necessary consequence.

As long as the policy of a double standard is adhered to the only remedy for these inevitable effects is in a readjustment from time to time, of the legal values of the gold & silver coins, so as to conform them to the actual market values of the bullion of which they are constituted. Such a readjustment in 1834, was effectual in securing the circulation of our gold coins; and a like remedy is now proposed to restore our silver circulation.

If there were any reason to suppose that a readjustment of our silver coins, based upon the present relative value of that metal to gold, would be permanent, the remedy would be unobjectionable, but from the considerations already advanced this appears almost impossible. I think any steps which are taken should look, not to the continuance, but to the abandonment of the policy of a double standard.

I confess that there are some difficulties in determining which of the metals, gold or silver, should be adopted as the sole standard of money, provided the introduction of such be thought expedient. Many sagacious inquirers, looking to the increasing product of gold in the few past years, & apprehensive of a progressive deterioration in the intrinsic value of that metal, are very averse to its introduction as a standard. Silver, on the other hand, from the steadiness of its production, appears less subject to variation & therefore better fitted for that purpose.

If silver should be adopted as a legal standard, and the valuations now given to the gold pieces, as tenders of payment, should be withdrawn, the consequences would be that the eagle would be refused as an equivalent to ten dollars, since estimated in the standard of value silver, it is worth but nine dollars and seventy or eighty cents; the tendency to export silver, growing out of its legal undervaluation relatively to gold would be checked, and the artificial circulation of gold due to its overvaluation by law would also cease. If on the other hand, gold should be adopted as the sole legal tender, there would be no impediment to the circulation of our silver coins at a rate of valuation due to their intrinsic price. The dollar would pass for 100 or 100 cents, the half dollar for 50 & the smaller coins at proportional rates.

The obvious inconvenience, however, of small premiums or discounts, in the ordinary transactions of commerce, upon money of so little value as our silver coins suggests the propriety, in case gold should be introduced as the sole legal tender, of introducing the British system relative to the silver coins.

By this system the silver coins are intrinsically worth less than their nominal value. The shilling, instead of containing silver ~~silver~~ worth, at the market rate, ~~one~~ one twentieth of a pound sterling in gold, is really worth about ten per cent less. The other pieces are proportionally reduced. The coins are prepared by the government, & sold to the community for gold or bank notes, without any discount for their legal depreciation; the profit being retained by the State. It is, in all essential respects, the system now proposed by ourselves, with reference to the copper coinage; & is also extensively adopted on the continent of Europe & in South America.

Under such an arrangement, although the silver coins are not made legal tender, ~~expect~~ except for small sums, and are depreciated in their intrinsic value it is found that their circulation is permanently established. The currency of our own cent, worth very much less than the 100th of a dollar, & of the worn Spanish pieces, shows that even an excessive reduction, in small coins, does not affect their acceptance with the community. And while this is true, it is also obvious that the exportation of such pieces will never begin until, either the price of silver has risen, so that the intrinsic & nominal values of the coins correspond, or until other countries shall, by law or custom, recognize them at the valuation of the country by which they were issued.

If gold should be established as the sole legal tender for all sums, the system to which I have referred should be applied, in my judgment, to our whole silver coinage; but if silver should be the preferred standard, or retained concurrently with gold, must all our silver coins be placed on the same footing, made of full value, and legal tenders for all sums, or should it not be sufficient to preserve only the dollars, & perhaps the half dollars, of full standard, reduce the weight of the smaller coins, & introduce as to them the policy which has been just described? I am quite clear that it should. It is obviously of the highest importance that this part of our currency should be preserved, if possible, from all the hazards of exportation, melting, or hoarding, & a slight overvaluation by law, will we know effect this object.

Under the circumstances in which we are now placed, it has appeared to me that the most feasible course open to us is to reduce the weights of the quarter-dollar, dime & half dime, & impose a virtual seignorage on their coinage, which shall ensure them to us as a domestic currency. I should not recommend a reduction in the whole series of our silver coins, so as to conform their legal value exactly to their market value, since it would be but another attempt, & a precedent, for the retention of the double standard, to which there are such weighty objections. Nor, on the other hand is the time propitious for the selection of a single standard, since we are now, probably, passing through a crisis which will afford us invaluable knowledge in determining which of the precious metals should be adopted. If the present influx of gold should continue, & a progressive deterioration in the intrinsic value of it should be the consequence, we should have cause of regret were it selected as the sole standard money.

Should its value, however, prove steady, there are many strong, perhaps preponderant, reasons in favor of its adoption. Upon the whole, it is perhaps most prudent, that whatever steps are taken should be consistent with whatever policy, relative to our legal tender, may be hereafter adopted, whether that policy be to establish, as such, gold, or silver, or both concurrently, as at present. The bill I propose for your consideration appears to me to conform to this view, and without further preliminary, I shall now briefly explain its provisions.

The first section provides for reductions on the present weights of the quarter-dollar, dime, & half dime, by which they are diminished in value about 7 per cent below the present mint rate. As that rate is about three per cent above the market rate, the true reduction proposed is therefore but four per cent, leaving the half dime intrinsically worth about 4 cents & eight mills, the dime about 9 cents six mills, the quarter dollar about 24 cents. This reduction, although it will I believe secure the permanence of the small currency, and yield some profit to the government, is but trifling compared with what has been adopted in other instances. In Great Britain it is ten per cent, and in other countries has been carried as high as 24 per cent. On the small Spanish pieces, the reduction by wear is from 18 per cent on the small pieces, to 7½ per cent on the larger, yet it is probably their worn appearance alone, & not their loss in intrinsic value, which renders them unacceptable as a currency. The proposed reduction appears, therefore, unobjectionable, and I am glad to find that it essentially corresponds with that suggested by yourself namely 11⅔ per cent.

The sections following, from the 2nd to the 6th inclusive, have for their object to commit the supply of these small coins to the government, through the agency of the Treasurer of the Mint, precisely according to the plan which has always been adopted to secure the circulation of copper coins. The Treasurer is required to purchase the bullion to be coined, & to sell the coins, as they may be required, for their equivalent in other money of the United States, whether gold or the larger silver coins. He is authorized [illegible] also, to pay the cost of the bullion & the expenses of distribution which will, when the system is permanently organized, be defrayed by the sale of the coins themselves. At the commencement, however, recourse must be had to our contingent & Bullion Funds for this purpose, & provision is made to that effect.

The 7th Section extends the act to the Branch Mint at New Orleans. The Mints at Charlotte & Dahlonega are, under the present laws, confined to the coinage of gold. It would perhaps be expedient, at some future time, to require them to coin the small silver pieces under the provisions of this act.

The 8th Section makes small appropriations, to be applied in case the means of procuring silver bullion for coinage shall not otherwise be sufficient. Properly speaking these appropriations are but advances, to be remunerated from the proceeds ~~from~~ of the sale of silver.

The 9th & last Section provides that the act shall go in force on the 1st of April next. However favorable Congress should be to its passage that appears to me the earliest possible day that could be selected.

No provision has been made relative to the small coins now in circulation, nor do I think any is necessary. There is nothing in the law to impair either their intrinsic or legal value. Because the new pieces of less weight are declared to be of the same value as the old ones (to a limited extent) it does not follow that the old coins have been thereby depreciated. They are as valuable under the proposed law as they are under the present. It is worthy of remark likewise, that as compared with the dimes & half dimes of old coinage, which have been subjected to wear, the new coins are not materially diminished in their intrinsic value from [illegible] introduction of the system I have proposed with reference to our small coinage will be permanently effective in securing in circulation that most important part of our currency. No future probable condition of the Silver market will encourage their exportation, or raise them to a premium. They will always be most valuable as currency & will be retained as such.

Very faithfully Yours

(signed) R. M. Patterson

Director

Hon. J. Phillips Phoenix

A Bill amendatory of existing laws relative to the Quarter dollar, dime, and half-dime.

§.1 Be it enacted &c That from the period hereinafter designated, the weight of the quarter-dollar, or piece of twenty-five cen shall be ninety-five grains and five-eighths of a grain; the weight of the dime, or piece of ten cents, shall be thirty-eight grains and o fourth of a grain; the weight of the half dime, or piece of five cents, shall be nineteen grains, and one-eighth of a grain; and that the said coins shall be legal tenders of payment, according to their nominal value, for any sum less than one-dollar.

§2.– That it shall be lawful for the Treasurer of the mint, under the instructions of the Director, to purchase silver bullion whi shall be deposited by the said Treasurer for coinage into pieces of twenty-five, ten, & five cents; and that the said coins, when received, may be delivered by him in exchange for their legal equi alent in other gold or silver coins of the United States, to any pers who shall apply for them: Provided, that the sum asked for sha not be less than ten dollars.

§3.– That the said coins may, at the discretion of the director, be delivered in any of the principal cities and towns of the United States, at the cost of the Mint for transportation.

§4– That the money which shall be received in exchange for the said coins shall be a fund in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, which shall be used in the purchase of silver bullion to be converted into said coins, and to pay the expense of their transportation; and if there be a surplus, the same shall be appropriated to defray the Contingent expenses of the Mint.

§5.– That until the said fund shall have accumulated ~~from~~ by the sales herein authorised, and whenever, for other reasons it shall be convenient, it shall be lawful to apply such portion of the contingent fund of the Mint as may be needful, in the purchase of the silver bullion required for the purposes of this act, the amount of which shall be afterwards reimbursed to that fund. And it shall further be lawful to employ, in the coinage of said pieces, any silver in the Bullion Fund of the Mint which may conveniently be spared, and to sell the coins which shall be derived therefrom, conformably to the terms of this act: provided, that from the proceeds of such sales, the legal value of the silver thus withdrawn, estimated in dollars, shall be restored to the Bullion Fund aforesaid.

§6.– That no deposites for coinage into the quarter dollar, dime, and half dime shall hereafter be received, other than those made by the Treasurer of the Mint, as herein authorised.

§7.– That the provisions of this act are hereby extended to the Branch mint at New Orleans, and to the Officers thereof.

§8.– That to provide for any deficiency in the means for procuring silver to be coined under the terms of this act, there is hereby appropriated, for that purpose, out of any moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to the mint at Philadelphia the sum of thirty thousand dollars, and a like sum to the Branch Mint at New Orleans.

§.9.– That this act shall be in force from the first day of April A.D. 1851. –

Washington
February 5th 1851

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter, dated Jany 30th 1851, received by me from Prof. Booth, in which, instead of giving me information concerning his experiments, he has requested me to communicate with him henceforth through an official medium, which would ordinarily be through yourself as the Head of the Treasury Department.

But, inasmuch as your order to the Director of the Mint, to test, with as little delay as possible, the method of refining gold patented by myself, as well as that by Mr Booth, in the presence of both of us, as contained in your letter to that officer of the 11th ulto, has been disregarded, — for reasons which, however satisfactory to Dr Patterson, were yet inadmissible, as the manner of making the requisite trial of the aforesaid methods was not confided to his discretion, but was by you justly & expressly prescribed, in pursuance of my own request as a party of interest, — I have felt unwilling to ask you to reiterate that order, which has been treated with contumacy. And with a desire to be most courteous towards and considerate of you, I have laid the whole subject before the President, forbearing to make any new suggestions, and asking only such action as shall consist with his sense of justice, the rights of a citizen, & the public welfare, as well as that I may receive early information thereof.

When I requested you to give the aforesaid order it would have been to me entirely convenient to have attended at the Mint, the College of New Jersey being in vacation; but now, I must resume my official duties in that Institution, which demand my presence, and I go there tomorrow.

If Mr. Booth's method is, as it may be, a failure and therefore without value, for his own experiments with it since it was patented seem not to have been satisfactory, and the reports of the Director about it have been unfavorable, while the facts have been studiously withheld from me, it follows, as a consequence, – that, under the enactment in the Civil and Diplomatic appropriation bill, the President could not use any part of the appropriation for the purchase of my invention however efficient and valuable it shall be found to be, although he might give the whole sum for the process of a third person. Whether legislation may not, therefore, be necessary upon this subject, and should not be promptly applied for by me, is a question which I now hold under consideration

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Sert.
Richd. S. McCulloh

Hon. Thos. Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury

Respectfully referred to the Secy. of the Treasury for consideration & report. M.F.
Feby. 2.

To His Excellency,
Millard Fillmore,
President of the United States,

Sir,

As Melter and Refiner of the Mint, at Philadelphia, in the year 1849, I did, by the invention and construction of simple apparatus, introduce the use of steam in the art of refining gold; and I, thereby, greatly augmented the power of the mint to refine California and other gold bullion, without changing the chemical method employed.

For my aforesaid invention, which was capable of being, and has since been, greatly expanded by simply enlarging the apparatus, constructed at first upon a necessarily restricted scale, I neither sought exclusive right, nor have asked any benefit. But having completed it, and established its advantages, I accepted the appointment of professor of natural philosophy in the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, and resigned the office I held in the mint.

Before leaving the mint, I felt convinced that much more rapid and efficient chemical means than any then known would be requisite to permit the increasing deposites of California gold to be refined with proper despatch and economy. And I sought to discover such means by experiments tried openly in the mint, at first upon the agency of chlorine unsuccessfully, and subsequently with imperfect, though promising, results upon an alloy of gold with zinc; which I made known to the Director of the mint.

After having settled at Princeton, I perfected my methods of refining with zinc, and in pursuance of advice given to me by my friends, I filed a specification as a caveat, that I might secure a patent in the United States, and obtain

Respectfully refer to the Secy of the
Treasury for consideration
Feby

patents in Europe.

On the 11th February 1850, I wrote to the Director of the Mint, informing him of the great advantages of my new mode of refining gold, and offering it for the use of the Government. He received my letter, but made me no reply.

To the Hon. W. M. Meredith, Secretary of the Treasury, I addressed a letter, on the 1st of July, 1850, setting forth the financial and economical importance of obtaining the right to use my discovery, and offered any information relative thereto, though the specification of my patent then rested in Caveat. My communication was referred by him to the Director of the Mint, for his views, on the 2d of July; who reported on the 6th of July, that he was in ignorance of my process, that neither he nor any officer of the Mint had been made acquainted with the results, and that no opinion of its merits could be properly given until the process should be fully made known to the officers of the Mint and be tried upon a large scale.

On the 5th of July, having been advised that legislation would be necessary to enable the Government to purchase the right to use my invention, I memorialized Congress upon the subject; copy of which memorial is enclosed.

In a letter ~~dated~~, dated July 9th 1850, the melter and refiner of the Mint, Prof. J. C. Booth, wrote to me, at Washington, that he had "every reason to believe" he had been pursuing my method of refining, "for the past few weeks": that the Director of the Mint had shown to him the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to my Communication, and had learned from him that he supposed he knew what the patent was, and that he "had been working with it for some time"; also that ~~he knew~~ the Director supposed a large sum would be asked for it, to which he had replied that he "thought it worth it", and that if it were his patent he "would value it very high say $50,000 in the U. S. or possibly double that amount". In this letter Prof. Booth likewise informed me of his having written to me, at Princeton, some days before, on the subject of his experiments upon refining with zinc and proposing the union of his method with mine, "not knowing that" I "had completed" my process; he stated that he had "worked a few hundred pounds of gold with zinc in various ways" and thought "that the cost may be reduced to a very low rate"; he cautioned me to guard my patent on one point, to which, however, I had already attended; and apparently abandoning all idea of participation in pecuniary ~~profit~~ benefit, he wished me all success, and proffered to me the assistance of an opinion upon my process, as he had "worked it all out in detail on large quantities of metal."

On returning home to Princeton, I found there the letter referred to by Prof. Booth, dated June 29th 1850, in which he wrote that he had "been experimenting a good deal to find out new methods of refining the California gold", and had "succeeded in part by the use of zinc"; that he "wished to ascertain whether" we could "unite our processes, so as to be mutually beneficial"; that he had "just worked off a large lot of gold with tolerable facility"; and that his "object" was "not for the mint", but that he intended "to engage some friends in Philad^{a} to carry out the refining on a large scale."

After having written to me as above, Prof. Booth devised a mode of refining by the agency of chlorine, for which he made application, dated Augt. 5th & verified by his oath in Washington on the 7th of Augt., for letters patent; which were granted to him on the 24th September 1850, the Director of the Mint having on the 5th of September written to the Commissioner of Patents, urging him to expedite the examination of Mr. Booth's application, that "the interests of the Mint might be promoted thereby."

In a letter, dated Augt. 13th 1850, Prof. Booth informed me, that he had worked $100,000 of gold with zinc, which proved brittle; that he had "not made many experiments on the gold" and had not "time to do it"; and that C. Moffit Esq. and himself had been "working out another process of refining on different principles", which he believed would "be very successful". Yet on the 16th of Augt. he wrote to me from New York, that he would remain there for some ten days, and again on the 22d of August, communicated to me from Glen Cove, Long Island, the intelligence that he had been "making an enormous profit" of his stay there by ~~his~~ "unwearied activity in rowing, sailing, bowling, &c."

On the 9th of September, H. M. Moffit Esq., attorney for Messrs. J. C. Booth and C. Moffit, petitioned the Hon. Thomas Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury, to instruct the Director of the Mint, to compare their proposed plan for refining gold "in all results with any other used or known" at the Mint and to report thereupon; which was accordingly done, on the 10th September 1850, by a letter addressed to the Director by the Secretary.

And in the aforesaid petition the basis of an arrangement was suggested, by which without special legislation the right to use the invention of Prof. Booth, for refining gold might be purchased for the Mint; a suggestion similar to that which had been previously proposed orally in his behalf, in contemplation of an union of interests, with the expreſsed belief that it would be acceptable to the officers of the Mint; but which had been deemed inadmiſsable by my counsel; because the expense of labor and materials, used in refining gold bullion, was alone authorized by law to be charged to the depositors of such bullion for refining the same, and the price of purchasing a patent right for that purpose, could not be regarded as any part of the cost of labor and materials. And it was probably for this reason that Meſsrs. Booth and Morfit subsequently memorialized Congreſs for such legislation on the subject.

Having been aſsured by Prof. Booth of the value & efficiency of his proceſs, and that letters patent had been ordered to be iſsued to him for it, I made a union with him on the 12th Septr. 1850, by aſsigning to him a moiety of my invention in consideration of his conveying to me a moiety of his own. And we then concurred in offering both proceſses to the Government through the Congreſs on the terms originally proposed by me for mine alone, to wit; either a just sum in groſs or a fair share of the saving to be effected in labor and materials only; in consequence of which an appropriation of \$25,000 was made to enable the President to obtain the right to use the said methods, or any other method which may be discovered, if he should deem it expedient to do so.

Since the paſsage of the aforesaid enactment, framed by the committee of conference, and not by the undersigned, experiments profeſsedly designed to test the merits of the aforesaid inventions have been conducted in the Mint, by Prof. Booth, acting under instructions of the Director, in obedience to the aforesaid letter to him of Sept. 10th from the Secretary of the Treasury. But in so far as they have related to my method, Prof. Booth has avowedly set aside and objected to the trial of the preferred means described in the Specification of my patent & indicated in my letters to him; in consequence of which, or of other mismanagement, he has been obtaining unsuccessful results. Concerning his own method, he has alluded to unforeseen difficulties & embarrassments, but when interrogated as to the facts in his trials by me as assignee of one half interest in his patent, acquired under implicit reliance upon his assurances of its great value & efficiency, he has studiously kept me uninformed. And of all his experiments the Director has several times written that they have proved unsuccessful.

Justly dissatisfied with this state of things, I wrote to the Melter and Refiner of the Mint at New Orleans requesting him to try my process of refining upon a working scale; which has been done by him with perfect success, after he had gained experience by two or three trials, and without the advantages of the most appropriate apparatus.

Also, on the 23d of December last, I addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, asking him to instruct the Director of the Mint to cause both processes to be tried without delay, and in my presence; which was accordingly done on the 11th of January. But instead of obeying the orders given to him, the Director of the Mint has disregarded them, and in a letter of the 14th ulto. to the Secretary he has treated ~~them as~~ his instructions as unnecessary.

Not wishing to ask the Secretary of the Treasury to take any action in relation to such a case of insubordination to his own immediate orders, nor to urge him to do more than he has already done, or may see fit to do of his own accord, to protect my own and the public interests, I have deemed it to be my duty reluctantly to submit this whole matter to your Consideration, to request your prompt attention to it, and to say to you:

That I have no Confidence that a fair trial ~~will~~ of either invention will be made in the Mint by Prof. Booth, alone:

That I have good reason to believe the Director of the Mint to be influenced by hostility to me, incurred by reason of my having been obliged by my sense of duty, as an officer of the Mint, to decline to furnish facilities to the Coiner for carrying on in the Mint the busineſs of manufacturing medals for his private gain, which I Considered to be illegal and calculated by example to demoralize the persons employed in the Mint, though sanctioned by the Director:

And that in view of the expreſs contradictions and the conflicting statements, in which the Director and the Melter & Refiner of the Mint are involved, by their writings upon the subjects mentioned in this Communicatio ; and of all the attending circumstances, I am painfully convinced, and am prompted by higher Considerations than those of pecuniary interest to inform you; that a groſs wrong has been committed upon me by officers of the Mint, to the great prejudice of the public economy and heavy loſs to the depositors of bullion, entailed by their long adherence to an expensive & slow method of refining; in order, if poſsible, to substitute for my proceſs, the hitherto unsucceſsful, though patented, invention of one of themselves, in regard to which the Director of the Mint, on the 3rd of September last, urged upon the Commiſsioner of patents prompt attention to the application for letters patent,— in strange contrast, with his perfect indifference to the offer contained in my unanswered letter to him of Feb.y 11th 1850; and with his forbearance to express any opinion about, & declaration that both the officers of the Mint and himself were ignorant of, the merits of my process, in his reply of July 6th to the Hon. W. M. Meredith, Secretary of the Treasury,— taken in connexion with the abovementioned statements of Prof. Booth concerning the information he had given to the Director; or, if said information was imparted ~~sub~~ subsequently to that reply, then, with his having allowed it to remain, so far as I am informed and believe, without alteration, or addition.

My interests and conviction that injustice has been done me, may cause me to contemplate this subject under bias; I, therefore, prefer to make no new suggestions concerning the course to be pursued. And I ask, only, such action as shall consist with your sense of justice, the rights of a citizen, and the public welfare; and, that as early information thereof may be given to me, as your convenience may permit.

With great respect
Your Obt. Sert.
Richd. S. McCulloh

Washington
Feb.y 5th 1851

Mint of the United States
6 Febry 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, in which you state the desire of the Departments to be supplied with gold dollars, and ask how far this can be done, without too great inconvenience to the operations of the Mint.

In reply I have to state that we can furnish, at once, about $30,000 in the smaller gold coin (quarter eagles & dollars), without any serious inconvenience. Our supply of dollars has lately been reduced, so that the whole of the above amount could not *readily* be spared in that coin; but if quarter eagles will not serve the purposes required, we shall be able, probably, to meet the entire sum in dollars.

In reply to your question as to the extent to which we can supply dollars to the departments, per month, I may mention that, in a consultation held a few days since with the operative officers of the Mint it was generally agreed that from six to seven millions per month would be coined, till the 30th of April, of which not less than half a million should be in quarter eagles & dollars, affording us a tolerable certainty of resuming prompt payments on or prior to the date mentioned. In my opinion that amount of small coinage will more than answer the demands of the public and of the departments. If this should not be so it is for the Department to indicate whether by increasing the small coinage we shall delay the resumption of prompt payments. A moderate demand from the departments, - say 30 to 50 thousand dollars per month, - would, however, give us no inconvenience; and if a supply to this extent would be satisfactory, I think no serious delay in the time of resuming prompt payments would result. Some preliminary notice should be given of the time when the coins are required, and, I hope, that the diminution in our Bullion Fund, consequent upon their withdrawal, would be supplied by counter drafts.

Very respectfully
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Wm L. Hodge, Esq
Asst Secy of Trey

Mint of the United States
7 Feby 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of yesterday enclosing a letter from the house of Beebee & Co of New York, in which they request that drafts in favor of the Mint may be made on the Assistant Treasurer in New York, for the purpose of paying off a like amount of Mint certificates. You ask how it is that with the bullion fund "~~at our~~ command ($4,700,000) there can be any difficulty in redeeming such certificates, even with uncoined bullion on hand to the extent of six millions of dollars, as a considerable portion of the latter, it is presumed, is always unassayed, and the value being thus undetermined no certificates can have issued for that portion."

The explanation I have to offer is that the bullion fund is not, as you suppose, at our command. It is in fact uncoined bullion. This you can understand when you consider how the bullion fund has been really disposed of which we have received during the past two years. The coin never came or remained in the Mint, but was disbursed in payment of certificates of uncoined bullion. The Government became, in fact, the purchaser of such uncoined bullion, and now stands in the position of an unpaid depositor.

Since it is presumed that the Government is willing to postpone its claims in favor of private depositors, we apply our coin, as fast as it is manufactured, to the payment of the latter. We reserve nothing for the account of the Government. Should drafts be made upon our bullion fund, we pay them by diverting a portion of our coinage as it accrues, from the payment of private depositors to the payment of the Government. Of course, when the coinage of the Mint shall have overtaken the debt now due, & which may hereafter become due to private depositors, we shall reduce the Bullion Fund, as fast as possible, into the condition of coin, since I am well aware that we have now on hand an amount beyond what, in a more ~~easy~~ untrammeled state of affairs, would be required.

In a letter to the Assistant Secretary, yesterday, I stated that it was the opinion of the operative officers of the Mint, arrived at after a full consultation, that ~~to~~ on or before the 30th of April next the Mint would be in a condition to resume prompt payment, coining, in the meantime, not less than half a million in ¼ Eagles & Gold dollars, provided the bullion fund were not reduced by drafts. I shall now state the data on which that opinion was founded.

The estimated debt to private depositors, beyond our means of payment, on the 1st inst was — —	$6,000,000
The estimated deposites of Feb., Mar. Ap.	14,000,000
	20,000,000

over

Estimated sum payable prior to 30 ap.	20,000,000
Of this amount there will probably remain unassayed at that date	700,000
The estimated coinage at 6½ million per month is	19,500,000
The estimated amount payable & uncalled for	300,000
	20,500,000

I believe this estimate to be fair, and it gives good grounds for the hope that we shall secure the desirable result at which we aim. It is, however, predicated upon the supposition that our bullion fund will not, in the meanwhile, be reduced by drafts

The request made by Mr. Beebe is not prompted, I am sure, by any suggestions from the Mint that we need the relief required. I should, indeed, have serious objections to an increase in our bullion fund. You might, however, be disposed to furnish some temporary relief to the money market by the drafts proposed; in this case you could issue within a few weeks, counter drafts upon our bullion fund to replace the amount so advanced, leaving the condition of affairs, in the end, precisely as the commencement.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy

Mint of the United States
10 Feby 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of yesterday, in which you request some further information relative to the Mint indebtedness.

The source of your difficulty is in assuming that the total indebtedness of the Mint was six millions. In my previous letter I guarded the statement relative to our debt by inserting the words 'to private depositors, meaning thereby to exclude the public or government debt, usually termed the Bullion Fund. Your conjecture, then, is correct, that the Bullion Fund is to be added to the debt to private depositors, making the total indebtedness near eleven millions.

I have already stated that, as large as this sum appears, we have a well grounded hope that in the course of three months the greater portion of that now due to, and receivable from, private depositors will be paid. To the government we must continue longer in debt.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful serv't,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon Thomas Corwin.
Secy of the Treasy.

Mint of the United States
11 Febry 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Annual Assay was held yesterday at the Mint, all the Commissioners being in attendance: viz

Hon. Jno. K. Kane, Judge of the District Court Jno. W. Ashmead, Attorney do do Wm D. Lewis, Collector of the Port of Philada	Commissioners ex officio
Hon. Jos. R. Ingersoll, of Philadelphia Prof. Edwd Hitchcock, of Amherst College, Mass. Stephen Colwell, of Philadelphia David M. Stone, of New York Chas. B. Trego, of Philadelphia Danl B. Smith of do.	Commissioners specially designated by the President

On the following page will be found a table presenting the results of the trials made by the Commissioners. These being quite satisfactory, the Commissioners concluded their proceedings by a resolution "that the examination of the gold & silver coins reserved at the Mint & its Branches, in the year 1850, is in their judgment sufficient; and there appearing no greater deviation from the standard fineness & weight than is allowed by law, the trial is considered & reported as satisfactory.

The accuracy of the weights of the Mint was also tested, by comparing them with the standards kept for that purpose, & the correspondence was found satisfactory. — very respy your obdt servt

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury.

Tabular Statement of the trials of the coins of the U.S. of 1850.

Mints	Kind of metal & its form when tried	Stand. weight	Weight by trial	Fineness by trial
		Ounces	Ounces	Thousandths
Philadelphia	Gold Coins $5000 mixed pieces	268.750	268.880	
	3 D. Eagles, 3 Eagles, 3 ½ E, 3 ¼ E & 3 G. Dolls	6.208	6.208	
	Silver coins $44.25 mixed pieces	38.027	38.025	
	2 dolls, 3 ½ dolls, 3 ¼ dolls, 3 dimes, 3 ½ dimes	4.898	4.899	
	Bar from melt of gold Coins			899.7
	do Silver			900.9
New Orleans	Gold Coins $3,644 mixed pieces	195.865	195.868	
	Silver Coins $291.10 "	250.164	250.090	
	3 dolls, 3 ½ dolls, 3 ¼ dolls, 3 dimes, 3 ½ dimes	4.898	4.898	
	Bar from melt of gold Coins			899.6
	do Silver			899.1
Charlotte	Gold coins $344	18.490	18.487	
	Three ½ eagles, three ¼ E, 3 dollars	1.371	1.370	
	Bar from melt of gold Coins			899.9
Dahlonega	Gold coins $599	32.197	32.201	
	3 Eagles, 3 ½ E, 3 dolls	1.371	1.371	
	Bar from melt of gold Coins			900

Mint of the United States
11 Feb. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to report than an experiment on the parting process of Mr. McCulloh has been prosecuted to success, so far as to prove that malleable gold may be procured by it. The *practicability* of the plan is, therefore, for the first time, proved; but its *feasibility* by comparison with other known methods is yet to be shown. To this end an accurate experiment will be made, with a delay of a few days, in which the expense, labor, time, wastage, & other particulars will be taken into particular consideration.

An objection has been suggested to the plan which this experiment will serve to contradict or verify, but which if it be well founded is conclusive as to its inexpediency. I refer to the supposed hazard of loss of gold. Zinc when melted with other metals has the property at a certain temperature of escaping into the atmosphere, carrying with it the metal with which it is mixed. The commencement of Mr. McC.s process required the melting together of zinc & gold, and it has been suggested that the gold will sustain loss thereby. You will perceive, therefore, how important a further experiment on the plan may prove.

Very respectfully & faithfully yours

R. M. Patterson
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasy

Mint of the United States
12 Feby 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, in which you announce the intention of the department to redeem two millions of dollars worth of Mint Certificates from the government moneys in the Assistant Treasury at Newyork; and you ask me ~~xy~~ to report as to the most advisable mode of effecting this object.

I should recommend the following course, being the same as that pursued on similar occasions heretofore. Let a draft or drafts be issued, for the amount deemed expedient, on the Assist.t Treas.r at Newyork, in favor of the Treasurer of the Mint. The latter officer will then give notice that at such a day he will redeem Mint Certificates at Newyork, to a certain number designated. He will prepare himself with the list of the depositors entitled to payment, with the amounts due, and at the appointed time will be in attendance at the Assistant Treasury in Newyork to disburse such an amount as may be required from the sum transferred to him. He will demand, as his vouchers of payment, the receipts or certificates issued, properly endorsed, and will thus be constituted the technical holder of them, so that on his return to Philadelphia he can himself receipt the warrants which complete the transaction so far as relates to the Mint accounts.

Our Treasurer states that he is in readiness, at any time, to proceed to Newyork for the purpose indicated.

In a former letter I suggested that a draft on our bullion fund, in favor of the Assistant Treasurer at Newyork, might be issued for a sum equal to that which you propose to transfer to us. You do not state whether it is your intention to issue such a draft. It would, of course, be desirable that we should have some weeks notice if such a sum is to be required.

Very respectfully,
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy.

P. S. As it would be necessary for our Treasurer to avail himself of the services of one or more of the Clerks in the Office of the Assistant Treasurer, to enable him to disburse the sum required, I suggest that some instructions be given to the Assistant Treasurer to afford the necessary assistance. This has, indeed, always been cheerfully given on former occasions, and I simply refer to the matter that no misunderstanding might arise in future.

Mint of the United States
14 Feb. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 12th, reviewing certain instructions heretofore given relative to the manner of effecting the payment of two million of Mint certificates at the Assistant Treasury, New York. In reply I have to state that the instructions will be conformed to, and that a list of deposites payable is now being prepared & will be sent to the Assistant Treasurer to ~~morrow~~ day. I shall write to him to that effect to day, so that he may give the requisite notification of the time when he will commence payment.

Respecting the propriety of sending ~~out~~ one of our own clerks to aid in the payments, I must remark that the business of the Mint is now such that no clerk could be spared without serious inconvenience. If thought desirable, however, our Treasurer will visit New York for that purpose. In my own judgment, there can be no difficulty in effecting the payments, with perfect safety, without any assistance from here. The list will be a guide as to the amounts, & our rules as to endorsements are the same as are required for the transfer of Treasury notes.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Sec. of the Treasury.

Princeton February 14, 1857

Dear Sir,

Please accept my thanks for the copy of the letter of the Director of the Mint to you of the 11th inst, furnished to me by your order. Concerning which letter I would remark, that it serves only to show that the melter and refiner of the Mint, Prof. Booth, has at length found it practicable for him to toughen gold by my patented process satisfactorily even to the Director of the Mint. Why he has not so done long ago, he alone can explain; for he possessed every facility that could be desired, and in his letter to me of July 9th 1850, after informing me that he had "worked a few hundred pounds of gold with zinc in various ways," he offered me "a full opinion" on my method of refining, as he had "worked it all out in detail on large quantities of metal"; also in his letter to me of Nov. 25th he said: "I have obtained toughened gold by both processes, and can work either of them on a large scale". Moreover the *disinterested* melter & refiner of the branch Mint at New Orleans has found no great difficulty in promptly proving "the practicability of the plan," without such facilities as have been deemed indispensable for that purpose at the Philadelphia Mint and I could myself have readily done the same, if a trial of my invention had been properly made in my presence, as advised by you in your instructions of the 11th ult. to the Director of the Mint, which he saw fit to disregard and disobey.

Of the new and *hypothetical* objection brought forward by the Director of the Mint, that in my process zinc may escape "into the atmosphere, carrying with it the metal with which it is mixed" and that gold may ✗ "sustain loss thereby", I should say, that such may be the case if the alloying be done with gross carelessness or wilful mismanagement, but not if proper skill and care be exercised.

But ✗ it is not in relation to my own invention, which is not upon a trial authorized by you and sanctioned by me, that I now feel called upon particularly to address you, so much as with reference to the patented process of Messrs. Booth and Morfit; concerning which I have good reason to believe, and am now fully convinced, after a personal interview with Mr. Morfit, that it has proved an utter failure under the management of Prof. Booth himself, so that the union between us, by mutual assignment recorded in the Patent Office, has in all probability been without valuable consideration upon their part, and would, therefore, be void in equity & law.

Under such circumstances legislation seems to be necessary to permit the right to use my process to be acquired by the government; and a grave question involving higher considerations than those of money has to be disposed of before any sale can be made. As, however, I have in consideration of yourself, submitted this matter to the immediate attention of the President, for his judgement & action, I feel it to be my duty, at present, to refrain from expressing any further wishes or suggestions.

With high respect
Your Ob.t Ser.t
Rich.d S. McCulloh

Hon. Thos. Corwin
Sec.y of the Treas.y

(Copy)

Office of Melter & Refiner, U. S. Mint
February 6. 1851

Dear Sir,

Having completed my experiments on the processes for refining so far as to form an opinion of their relative merits, I herewith submit that opinion to you.

By the process at present pursued at the Mint, a sufficient amount of gold may be refined, in all probability, to meet the deposites, say as much as eight or nine millions per month; but there are objections to the process which it would be very desirable to obviate, if practicable. The process is attended with the evolution of a very large amount of noxious & disagreeable vapor, the avoidance of which I believe to be impracticable, except to a limited extent, and this vapor is not only inconvenient and injurious to the workmen, but it is likewise highly objectionable to those residents of the City who are in the vicinity of the Mint. The process is one of the most expensive, requiring more manual force to melt the mixed gold & silver, and to carry it through the refining process, more fuel to melt 3 times as much metal as there is gold in the mixture, and a large amount of the most costly of all common acids, together with a large consumption of zinc to recover the silver employed in refining. Add to these, the large amount of silver, upwards of $ 200,000 removed from circulation, and retained only for the purpose of refining gold. In most other points, the present process is an excellent one.

Mr. McCulloh's process consists in the substitution of zinc for silver in the present operation, whereby a low temperature is required for melting the gold & zinc, diminishing greatly time, fuel, & labor. In the next part of the process, cold & dilute sulphuric acid is used to remove the zinc, & obtain the gold & its silver in a pulverulent state, so that nitric acid will then remove the silver readily from the gold. So far the process is every thing that could be desired, requiring but one precaution, that is the due regulation of the heat when melting gold & zinc together, for too high a temperature is apt to volatilize gold with the zinc. This can, however, be entirely guarded against. The only difficulty hitherto experienced in carrying out this process lay in the brittle character of the gold, & the difficulty of obtaining it in a malleable state in any of the experiments hitherto made, except the last. I have not been able to obtain it in a tough condition upon a *test*, whether with or without lead or copper, nor in a black-lead crucible; but it can be toughened in a sand crucible, or on a hearth of a reverberatory, whether a bone-ash test or not, by the use of ordinary means. Now as a reverberatory can be constructed on which several hundred thousand dollars of gold can be daily toughened, I think that the process of

Mr. McCulloh is, in all aspects considered, the best that could be adopted at the U.S. Mint. It is neat, attended with far leſs expense than the present method with no noxious fumes, & a larger amount of gold may be operated upon in the same space & in the same time.

The proceſs of myself & Mr. C. Morfit consists in diſsolving gold by means of salt, nitre, & oil of vitriol, or by muriatic acid & nitre, in stone-ware or glaſs veſsels, by steam heat or a sand bath, or in well secured wooden veſsels by steam blown into the liquid. Immediately after solution is effected, copperas is added to the solution to precipitate the gold. The gold & chloride of silver being filtered & washed, the chloride of silver is extracted from the gold by a solution of salt or an alkaline hyposulphite, or the chloride is reduced by zinc, washed & the reduced silver extracted by nitric acid. This proceſs recommends itself by the low cost of materials, in which respect, it excells all others; by a complete extraction of silver from the gold, if neceſsary; by the convenience of using different kinds of veſsels, according to the opportunities of procuring them; and by the use of leſs acid than any other proceſs.

Since, however, its use would not be a gain in the time required for refining over the present proceſs, & its introduction would require a total change of apparatus & arrangements, in order to carry it out most successfully, attended with loss of time in making such change, I do not recommend its adoption in the Philad.a Mint. But as wooden vessels can be used with this process, and as it requires a very small amount of acid, it might be advantageously adopted in California, or where the use of much acid or of stone or glass vessels is objectionable on the score of expense. In such places, under the above considerations, it is the best of the three processes.

In conclusion, therefore, I would respectfully recommend the adoption of Mr. McCulloh's process at the U. S. Mint, since it can be introduced without interfering with the operations of the Mint, & presents the advantages above specified.

Very respectfully
Your Ob.t Serv.t
(Signed) Jas. C. Booth
M. R. U. S. Mint

R. M. Patterson Esq
Director U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

J. C. Booth
Feb. 6. 1851
to the Director of the
Mint recommending
the adoption of Mr. McC's
process of refining

Mint of the United States,
15 Febry 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 12th in which you advert to the large amount of uncoined bullion now in the Mint, and request me to forward to the Department a full statement of our operations since the 1st of January last, under certain specified heads. In compliance with this request such a statement is herewith presented In one particular it lacks the fullness which you desired, since the "date and amount of each" deposite since the first of January are omitted, and the aggregates only are stated. The information you desire would necessarily have been withheld for many days to prepare such a list of deposites, and we have no clerk who could be spared for the work without serious inconvenience. In consideration of these facts, I hope the liberty I have taken will be excused.

You have expressed some surprise at the large amount of bullion now in the Mint, and stated your inability previous to a late letter from me, "to reconcile this with the information already possessed on the subject." I know not from what source you have derived erroneous views as to our position; but I feel it to be due to myself emphatically to disclaim having authorised any statement, either to the Department, or to individuals, inconsistent with that presented in this letter.

The question you present as to what is our averag daily coinage is one to which it is extremely difficult to reply. If coinage in value is meant, the amount would vary according as the pieces are of small or large value, since, on an average, one piece (of gold) requires as much time to coin as another. The ~~[illegible]~~ six days ending the 14th inst may be taken as an illustration on this point. The actual ~~coinage~~ in gold, during that time was

57,920	Double Eagles	$1,158,400.
58,580	Quarter Eagles	146,450
89,906	Dollars	89,906
206,406		1,394,756

The average daily number of pieces coined was 34,401. Had the whole number been in double-eagles the average daily amount, in value, woul have reached $688,020; in quarter eagles the amount would have been $86,002.50; in dollars $34,4 The average, as the pieces were actually proportiona was $232459. per day. During the remainder of the month our average, in value, will be much increased, inasmuch as we have already reached an amount, in the smaller pieces, which will justify us, conformably to the views heretofore indicated to the Department, in pressing the coinage of the larger pieces from this time, with a view of more rapidly reducing our indebtedness & returning to prompt payment.

It is propose that I should make a brief ex xplanation regarding the comparative smallness of ur coinage as exhibited in the accompanying Statement. It was reduced from two causes: first, from he imperative requirement of law compelling the Melter & Refiner annually to settle his accounts ~~to~~ by delivering up to the Treasurer all the Bullion in his possession. This caused a suspension of some ten days in the Refinery. Advantage was taken of this delay to effect certain indispensable alterations & repairs in that Department, which extended to a much longer period than had been anticipated. The entire suspension of operations was from the 30th Dec. to the 20th Jany., of course greatly reducing the ~~material~~ proportion of for coinage. To these two causes of impediment it may be added that our second refining house, from various ~~ca~~ reasons, could not be made use of till the 5th inst. Since that time the work in the Melting & Refining Department has been at the rate of about 6½ millions per month, and to this amount, I am quite sanguine, our future coinage will, if necessary, conform. I see no reason to change the opinion which I have heretofore expressed, that on or before the 30th of April, probably some weeks earlier, we shall be in a condition to resume prompt payments, without any further assistance than the Government Fund now in our possession.

Very respectfully,
Your faith. Servt
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury

tatement of the operations of the Mint at Philadelphia, from Jan 1, to Feb. 14, 1851, inclusive

The balance of coins on hand, Jan. 1, 1851, was		$ 532,921.95
The debt due to private depositors, beyond means of payment,		3,796,534.25
do government		4,711,150.00
Total		9,040,606.20
Add net amount of deposites received since for which certificates have issued		5,376,913.04
Estimated amount still to be ascertained and for which certificates have not issued		1,177,379.10
Whole amount to be accounted for		$ 15,594,898.34
Deduct the following items, viz.		
Payments to depositors during the period		4,134,430.06
Coins passed at annual assay, or since reserved		6,318.10
Coins in the hands of the Treasurer		1,029,310.79
Balance of indebtedness, 14 Feb. 1851, beyond means of payment,		
1. to private depositors, on certificates issued	$ 4,536,310.29	
2. Estd. do on deposites unassayed	1,177,379.10	
3. Due to Government	4,711,150.00	
Total balance of indebtedness		10,424,839.39
		$ 15,594,898.34

(over)

Statement of the Coinage of the Mint from January 1, to Feb'y 14, 1851, inclusive

Gold	
Double Eagles	$ 3,630,280
Quarter Eagles	540,705
Dollars	389,202
Total coinage in gold	$ 4,560,187
Silver	
Half-dollars	39,000
Dimes	32,750
Half-dimes	5,200
Total coinage in silver	$ 76,950
Copper	
Cents	$ 11,872
Half cents	234
Total coinage in Copper	12,106
Total coinage	$ 4,649,243

Treasurer's Office, U.S. Mint,
Philada Feb. 16, 1851

Sir:

I have received this morning your communication of the 15th instant, and also from the Treasurer of the United States a Draft on the Assistant Treasurer at New York for $2,000,000, to be applied to the redemption of Mint Certificates at that city. In anticipation of the receipt of the above draft, a list of the certificates payable had already been transmitted to the Assistant Treasurer at New York, with instructions as to the public notice to be given; and I shall proceed myself to that city this afternoon, and commence, tomorrow (Monday) morning, to redeem the certificates as they may be presented.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obdt servt

E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Hon. Thos. Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 21, 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that in compliance with your instructions of the 15th inst., I attended, on the 17th & 18th inst., at the office of the Assistant Treasurer in New York; and, with the aid of the obliging clerks of that Officer, redeemed outstanding Mint receipts to the amount of two millions of dollars.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington.

E. C. Dale, Treasurer Mint
Philada. Feb. 16. 1851

Mint of the United States,
Feb. 21, 1851.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., advising me of the wish of the Treasurer of the U. States for $30 to 40,000, in quarter-eagles and gold dollars in exchange for larger coins.

I have given the necessary directions, and will have the coins in readiness for Mess. Chubb, Schenck & Co., whenever they may call.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servt,

E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Hon. Thos. Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.
Washington.

Edw. C. Dale, Tr.
U. S. Mint
Phil. Feb. 21, '51.

Mint of the United States
24 Feb. 1851.

Sir,

On the 11th inst. I had the honor to inform you that an experiment on Mr. McCulloh's process was about to be taken, to determine the wastage & expense incident thereto. I have now to report that the experiment has been completed, and exhibits the annoying result of an actual gain of precious metal by the process. Altho every precaution was supposed to have been taken to ensure accuracy, the fact shows that by some carelessness our intentions have been frustrated. It would appear that the furnace for toughening the gold had not been perfectly cleaned.

I have directed another experiment to be made, which was commenced this morning. Meantime we are refining about 1 1/4 millions a week by the present method, the coinage being commensurate. The actual deliveries of gold coins, during the past week, were $1,678,000. The falling off in our rate of deposites forms a strong hope that in three or four weeks we shall resume prompt payment of all private deposites on assay.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy.

Mint of the United States
26 Febry 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose the official bond of Geo. F. DeBleker, given on his appointment as a Clerk for the Treasurer of the Mint.

The Sureties are not known to me, but I am assured that they are entirely responsible.

Very respectfully,
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 26 Feb. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a report of the operations of the Mint & Branches for the last month.

In a former letter I have stated the causes which led to the small coinage at this Mint in January. I am happy to state that the coinage of February will show a very satisfactory improvement, and that it will be as much in advance of the deposites of the month as it was in arrear by comparison with January.

Very respectfully,
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasy

From,
R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint

Mint of the United States,
March 1, 1851.

Sir,

In accordance with your request of the 20th ult., I yesterday delivered to Mess. Chubb & Schenck, in exchange for large coins, of gold dollars $15,000
quarter eagles 25,000
$40,000

Very respectfully,
Your obt. servt.,

E C Dale
Treasurer

Hon. Thos. Corwin
Secretary of Treasy.

Mint of the United States
March 3d. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 1st inst., enclosing a letter from Messrs. Scheller & Rombauer of St. Louis, requesting that they may have a sufficient time extended to them wherein to make application under the terms of the appropriation of the last session of Congress for the best process of refining argentiferous gold bullion. You ask whether a compliance with their request would interfere with the rights of former applicants.

Two applications for compensation under the law alluded to have been referred to me by the department, the patentees being Jas. C. Booth & Campbell Morfit for the one process, and R. S. McCulloh for the other. It is well understood, however, that these parties united their interests, agreeing to divide the compensation, should either process be accepted. Mr. Booth being our Melter & Refiner, and also personally interested, I devolved upon him the necessary experiments to prove the practicability of the schemes, there being reasons to doubt whether they would be adapted to operations on the large scale required by us. In consequence of the trials made, Mr. Booth ~~had~~ con-

C. C. Dale
Treas. U. S. Mint,
Phil. Mar. 1, '51.

cluded to withdraw his own process from the competition. W. McCulloh's process, also, seemed after many experiments, likely to fail; and it has only been within a few weeks past that it has been shown practicable.

This point being ascertained, experiments have been instituted with a view to prove the feasibility of the plan as compared with the present one, in other words its relative expense in materials, labor & wastage of gold. The first experiment was concluded a few days since, but owing to an inadvertence upon the part of one of the operatives it was not satisfactory, and others have been ordered and are now proceeding. These will be completed in a few days.

Assuming that the feasibility of the process will be demonstrated, some time will be required to allow me to make the necessary report on the subject, and also for the President to decide upon the propriety of giving the compensation which he is authorised to make therefor. A delay of several weeks must undoubtedly yet elapse from these grounds.

It is quite practicable, I should think, for Messrs. Scheller & Rombauer, within that time, to file specifications at the Patent Office, with a caveat. They might then, without danger, develop their plan, so that we could at once enter upon an experiment to determine its value. Should the advantages which they claim be realized, the superiority of their process to all others, and the propriety of giving them a compensation therefor, are manifest.

Upon the whole, I think the new claimants should be allowed a reasonable time to present their plan for competition which is also the opinion of the Bank Treasury.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec'y of the Treas'y

Mint of the United States,
March 5, 1851.

Sir,

I have received, through Mr. Jno. H. Ing of Baltimore, an order signed by yourself directing me to withhold the payment of the Mint receipt of Wm. Ledley (No. 1827) until the further order of your department; and I have given the necessary directions for having your instructions complied with.

Very respectfully,
Your obt. servt.,

E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of Treasury.

Princeton
March 6th 1851

Sir,

I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of a letter, dated February 26th 1851, addressed to me by Prof. J. C. Booth, notwithstanding his request that our correspondence might cease, and a copy of my reply thereto of the 5th inst.

I respectfully invite your attention to the remark, relative to my method of refining gold, and contained in his letter, that he is "pretty well satisfied that loss of gold can be avoided in the first step of the process;" which first step is the alloying with zinc; Hence it appears, that Prof. Booth does not concur in the objection, that gold may escape into the atmosphere.

What he, however, means by his other remarks, about "abandoning the use of the test principle", in the employment of a test furnace, I do not comprehend, but have not asked explanation.

I should here observe that the economy of any method of refining gold can be accurately determined only by a series of practical operations, extensive enough to let the workmen learn and become expert in the performance of all the manipulations requisite not only to the refining itself, but also to the incidental and indispensable gathering up of all grains, &c. The force of this remark is evident; for in the experiment which the Director of the Mint, in his letter to you of the 11th ult°, proposed to make for the purpose of determining accurately, "the expen of labor, time, wastage and other particulars, as well as "to contradict or verify" an objection of the "supposed hazard of loss of gold," it resulted, as Prof. Booth has stated: that "the gold weighed heavier by 20 ounces than it ought", owing to carelessness in the previous trial, or rather in both trials; and that said gain in weight compensated any apparent loss in the first experiment, and exhibited an excess or surplus of twenty ounces in th second. Which inaccuracy caused the Direct of the Mint to express "both regret and vexation"

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
R. S. McCulloh

Hon. Thos. Corwin
Secy of the Treasy

(Copy)

Philada. 26. Feby 1851

Dear Sir,

About ten days or two weeks since I concluded my first successful experiment with your process at the mint, after repeated failures in endeavoring to procure the gold tough. I found that the test would not work, even when the furnace was maintained at the highest temperature, and the gold kept in a state like water during some six or eight hours. I finally succeeded in toughening by abandoning the principle of the test, contrary to the expectations I had formed of the probable successful working of the test. I then made a report to the Director, who was pleased that I had succeeded; and wished me to make ~~such~~ an experiment with weighed quantities of gold of known fineness. This of course I cheerfully acceded to, as my responsibility as melter and refiner demanded an accurate knowledge of the loss of gold, if any, in melting up with zinc and toughening. After carrying out the process successfully, so as to elicit the praise of the officers as to the beauty of the whole operation, we found that the gold

weighed heavier by 20 ounces than it ought;
upon enquiry, I found that the hearth had not
been sufficiently cleared from the previous melt
altho' Mr. Foster had strict directions to make i
as clean as possible. Dr. Patterson expressed
both regret and vexation, which I also felt
most keenly, after so many repeated experimen
and under the hope that it was the last. There
being no other remedy, another lot of gold was
immediately melted with zinc, and this metal
is now ~~ready~~ nearly worked off by sulphuric
acid. I hope to be able to melt the fine gold o
Saturday, and to ascertain the full results by
Tuesday next. Dr. P. has expressed himself
highly pleased with the results thus far. I am
pretty well satisfied that loss of gold can be avoide
in the first step of the process, but I am equally
convinced that there would have been great liability
to loss by the use of the test principle.

Respectfully Yours
Jas. C. Booth

Prof. R. S. McCulloh
Washington City
D.C.

(Copy)

Princeton March 5. 1851

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 26.th ulto., addreſsed to me at Washington, has been forwarded to me here; and in reply, I have to state: that the Secretary of the Treasury had furnished me a copy of the letter of the Director of the Mint of the 11th ulto., reporting, that an experiment on the parting proceſs of Mr McCulloh had been prosecuted to succeſs, so far as to prove that malleable gold may be procured by it, - and that another experiment would be tried, which would serve to contradict or verify an objection, which had been suggested, that gold would be lost by escaping into the atmosphere with the zinc. And I, therefore, informed the Secretary, in reply, that any such loſs could result only from groſs careleſsneſs or wilful mismanagement; also, as I subsequently learned in Washington, that said hypothetical objection had been made known to members of Congreſs, and talked of as if it were an established fact, I discuſsed the subject in a communication of the 28th ulto. to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The aforegoing remarks are made not only for your information, but also because I presume that it is to the abovementioned objection that you have referred in the following words, contained in th your letter: "I am pretty well satisfied that loſs of gold can be avoided in the first step of the proceſs."

If instead of finding that "the gold weighed heavier by 20 ounces," as the result of the experiment which in his letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of the Mint proposed should be deemed conclusive, an apparent loſs had occurred, he might have inferred that his objection was verified and firmly established. That experiment, in connexion with the fact that it has been fully proved, at the New Orleans Mint, that gold properly refined by my proceſs can be toughened in black lead or sand crucibles, and by yourself, at the Philad^a mint, that the same can be done in a cupelling furnace, may serve to show that objections may recoil on the Mint, if urged without just and solid foundation.

That you may not overlook, as I did myself for several months, a matter of importance touching the question of the relative economy of my method of refining, I take the liberty of calling your attention to the facts, that "*chamber acid*", say of the Specific gravity, 1,50, and which may be bought at about 1¢ per lb., answers just as well as oil of vitriol, concentrated in platinum veſsels to the Sp. gr. 1,85, which costs say 2¢ per lb.; and 8 lbs. of the former will go as far as 5 lbs. of the latter; causing, therefore, an economy in the acid of 20 per cent. And I would suggest that zinc in large quantities may probably be purchased at prices much below those which have been paid for it, in comparatively small lots, by the Mint. This I am prompted to do by a desire to avoid unneceſsary controversy, though my suggestions may be deemed obtrusive.

Very respectfully
Your ob't Serv't.
R. S. McCulloh

Prof. J. C. Booth
U. S. Mint

Mint of the United States
7 March 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to call your attention to the clause in the new postage bill authorising the coinage of a 3 cent piece, and to ask for some instructions which will be necessary to carry the provision into effect.

The piece proposed is proportioned in weight to the other coins in our series, but its fineness is very much reduced, containing but 750 thousandths of pure silver, while our other silver coins are 900 thousandths fine. The coin is consequently worth, compared with our other silver coins, but 2½ cents.

Inasmuch, therefore, as we receive but very trifling deposites of silver (only $7000 worth in the past month), although the coins that we return may be sold at from 2 to 3 per cent premium, it is not to be expected that we shall obtain a sufficient supply for coinage into the new pieces, which from their low intrinsic value would never command a premium, except perhaps at the period of their first issue while public curiosity would be excited as to their appearance. If the law is not to remain a dead letter it will be therefore incumbent to provide some other means to secure their introduction into currency than that of exchange for silver deposites on the ordinary terms.

In making some suggestions as to the most proper means of effecting the object, it is proper that I should mention that the clause as to the 3 cent piece as it stands in the Postage Bill is taken from a bill presented to the Senate by Mr. Dickinson, early last year, and which was prepared by me, at the request of several members of Congress, to accomplish the various objects, 1st of providing a small silver coin adapted to a reduced rate of postage; 2d of introducing a piece which would be acceptable in those parts of the country where copper is generally rejected, and of diminishing the threatened excess of copper coin where it is current; 3d ~~&~~ of banishing from circulation the small Spanish coins. The last object was the one most held in view, & it was to be effected by the coinage of a piece of so low a real compared with its nominal value as to admit of its being exchanged for the Spanish coins by tale. The 3 cent piece was proposed for that end, yielding a margin of profit, as already mentioned, of 20 per cent. Inasmuch as the Spanish pieces average only about 12 per cent below their nominal value (varying from 7½ per cent on quarter dollars to 20 per cent on 16ths of a dollar) it ~~was~~ is evident that the proposed 3 cent piece could be exchanged for them, by tale, with a profit to the government. We could even afford to pay the expense of distributing the pieces in distant cities as we now do in the case of our copper coins.

On observing the 3 cent clause in the postage bill, before it passed, I called the attention of the Chairmen of the Post Office Committees in the two houses to the low value of the piece, and mentioned the objects for which it had been designed. In the hurry of legislation the weight & fineness of the coin are, I find, still unaltered, although the objects for which it was mainly designed, originally, have been overlooked. Perhaps, however, no legislation was needed on the subject, and the end in view may be as well attained by instructions from the Department.

It is clear, from what has already been said, 1st. that deposites by private customers of silver for coinage into the 3 cent piece will be received only to a limited extent. 2d. that so far as the piece is issued a profit of 20 per cent will be received by the Mint, being the excess of the nominal over the intrinsic value of the coin. It is requisite, therefore, that 1st. we shall adopt some means to secure silver for coinage 2d. that a method of accounting for the profits accruing from the issue of the piece shall be duly organized.

1st. We have already in the Mint something over $100,000 worth of silver bullion, belonging to the U.S. bullion fund, being the excess beyond what is necessary for the purpose of refining and paying deposites. This amount, or as much as can be spared, we can. If so instructed coin at once into the new coin.

Again, considering the profit we should receive from the sale of our coins we could afford to pay a premium for Silver in the market, which would be more than re-imbursed to us. The Silver thus purchased we could pay for eithe in gold or in the 3 cent pieces. Should the Department agree with me in the desirableness of withdrawing from circulation, as far as possible, the Spanish pieces, I propose that in the purchase of bullion we should give a special preference to that currency, giving such a premium on thei Mint value (as bullion) as would be sufficient to draw them to our Treasury. This premium should not exceed 8 per cent. It would, of course be less profitable to us to purchase the small Spanish coin, since they pass freely at nominal valu much above their intrinsic worth, so that a high premium must be offered, to withdraw them fro circulation; still, I think some sacrafice shou be made to check their currency.

2d In consequence of the profit which will ensue from the 3 cent coinage, it seems proper that a special account should be opened by the Treasurer of the Mint, covering the transactions relative thereto, just as is now done as regards our transactions relative to copper coinage.

In such an account the Treasurer should charge himself with the value, by tale, of the three cent pieces received by him, and also with their weight and value estimated by the amount of silver of full Standard (900) which they contain.

He should take credit for expenses incurred in the purchase of the silver for coinage, and for such expenses of distribution as may be authorised. Among the expenses which may be classed under that of purchase I include the debt which must be incurred to our bullion fund for the material of coinage. This debt is of course to be repaid with the proceeds of the sales of the coins. As to the expenses of distribution, I refer to those which may be incurred in the package of the coins and their transportation to distant cities. These are now sustained by the Mint in the distribution of copper coins, and it may be considered advisable to introduce similar charges on the distribution of the 3 cent pieces.

When the system has been some time in operation, there will of course be ~~a~~ balances in the hands of the Treasurer constituting a profit on the coinage. The profits derived on the coinage of copper (from ten to fifteen thousand dollars annually) are transferred to the Ordinary Account of the Mint & applied to the payment of our incidental expenses. It is probable, however, that the profits on the coinage of the

3 cent piece will be large enough not merely to pay our Contingent expenses, but all our expenses. It does not seem desirable for any government institution to derive an independent means of support, and it would be preferable, I think, that the profits of the coinage should, from time to time, be transferred to the Treasury of the United States.

The Treasurer of the Mint should have authority to dispose of the 3 cent pieces not only in exchange for foreign silver coins or bullion, but also, at par, for American gold or silver coins. The present scarcity of small silver change would be much alleviated if the 3 cent piece were procurable, for gold, without a premium; and, of course, we could well afford to make such an exchange. When the coin has been once introduced into circulation it will certainly remain there, since no probable future condition of the bullion market would justify its exportation or melting.

In order to prevent imposition, or monopolising on the part of applicants, it seems desirable that some discretion should be allowed as to the amounts to be sold. I propose, therefore, that when he deems it proper, the Treasurer may refuse to deliver less than $15 or more than $150 to any single applicant. It would also seem proper, to prevent speculations or premiums in the coins, that we should not begin to pay them out till a considerable supply has been accumulated, so that the immediate demand could be supplied at once.

Having now endeavored to show the necessity of some regulations relative to the coinage and distribution of the 3 cent piece, and indicated some of the points which it seems most important to provide for, I have to request instructions from the Department. With great deference, I briefly recapitulate what appear to me, as already suggested, the regulations most proper under the circumstances.

1. Authorising the Treasr. of the Mint, under the instructions of the Director, to purchase silver bullion, to be deposited by him ~~into~~ for coinage into 3 cent pieces

2. authorising him to exchange such pieces for their legal equivalent in other money of the U. S., provided that he may, at his discretion refuse to sell less than $15 or more than $150 to a single applicant.

3. authorising him to pay the expense of transportating or distributing such coins to distant cities; provided that such expense shall not exceed 3 per cent of the amount sold.

4. That the money received for such coins shall be a special fund in the hands of the Treasurer of the Mint, to be used in purchases of bullion for coinage, & defraying the expense of distributing the coins; and that any surplus which may accrue from the coinage shall, from time to time, be deposited with the Assistant Treasr. of the U. S. to the credit of the U. S.

5. That any silver bullion which can be spared, conveniently, from the Bullion Fund of the Mint, may be converted into the 3 cent coins, and paid into the 3 cent fund, but the legal value of the silver thus taken, estimated in dollars, shall be again restored to the bullion fund from the proceeds of the sales of the coins.

6. That the Treas. of the Mint may decline beginning to issue the coin till a stock shall have been accumulated of not less than $15,000 worth

The law authorises the coinage of the new pieces at the Mint and its branches. The New Orleans Mint is fully organized for the coinage of silver, and has the means of commencing the coinage, from the Bullion Fund, as readily as ourselves. The smaller Mints have never coined silver. The coinage could, however, be readily introduced there, and would no doubt be found an accommodation to the districts in which they are located. A provision of silver must, however, be supplied to them. If instructed, we could purchase silver for that purpose and transmit it to them.

The dies for the new piece are nearly ready, & I shall be able to send specimens of the coin to you in a few days. If approved, the coinage could commence, in a few weeks.

Very respectfully, your faithful servt

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasy

R. M. Patterson,
Director

Mint of the United States,
12 March 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of yesterday announcing the general approval of the suggestions made in my letter of the 8th respecting the Coinage of the 3 cent pieces, and requesting that the preparatory arrangements be made, as rapidly as possible, for a prompt & large issue of the coin. The principal arrangement necessary is in the machinery requisite for milling the piece, and steps have been taken to complete the changes required for that purpose. They will, I hope, be completed by the time the dies are finished and approved by the Department.

In my previous letter, I suggested that the Treasurer might, at his discretion, refuse to sell the 3 cent pieces in sums below $15. Inasmuch, however, as the law, by specifying the allowed limit of variation as one pennyweight in 1000 pieces (or $30 worth) will make it necessary to weigh & count sums of that amount in deliveries to the Treasurer, it would be more convenient to permit the limit to be $30 instead of $15. A recounting would thus be obviated.

I have the satisfaction to state that we were yesterday able to resume prompt payment of all assayed deposites, covering those received to the 6th inst. The assays (& payments) will to morrow reach deposites made on Monday last. I have a strong hope that, hereafter, we shall not find it necessary to postpone the payment of any deposite after its value has been determined.

Very respectfully
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin.
Secy of the Treasy.

Mint of the United States
14 Mar. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose the bonds of R. M. McAlpin, Superintendent, and Augustus Devall, Coiner, at the Branch Mint, New Orleans, with certificates of my approval. It is proper to state, however, that my only means of information, in regard to the sufficiency of the Sureties is derived from the affidavits and certificates attached to the bonds.

Very respectfully
Your obdt Servt
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin, }
Secy of the Treasury. }

Sir, Sir—

Mint of the United States
17 Mar. 1851.

Sir,

Your letter to Col. Snowden, dated the 14th inst, enclosing the warrant & voucher for a payment to Rowland Parry for services rendered to the Mint, has been received & opened in his absence. It will be sent to him at his residence in Venango County. In anticipation of his request that I should state the circumstances under which these services were rendered, I now take leave to present the following facts.

The clerical force assigned to the Treasurer at the time Col. Snowden entered upon his office was three clerks. In the early part of 1847 a vacancy having occurred in one of the Clerkships, it was concluded to leave it unfilled, in the expectation that by a new arrangement of duties the labor could be conveniently performed by the remaining clerks. This arrangement proved satisfactory till the increase of our business brought about in consequence of the large receipts from California. It was then found imperative to return to the original number of clerks, and I accordingly, by permission of the President, nominated a new clerk, who was approved on the 20th Dec. 1849.

Our business having continued to increase, I thought it indispensable to add still another clerk to our force, and accordingly, on the 8th of April 1850, I requested the consent of the President to the appointment. This was declined, on the ground of the recent increase allowed to us. I then, on the 16th of April, 1850, requested the Consent of the Department to the temporary employment of an accountant, to be paid out of the Contingent Fund of the Mint, the object in view, at that time, being to prepare the accounts for the Department. In a letter of the 20th of April, the Secretary states that "the appointment of an accountant, as suggested by you, is approved."

Whatever doubts might before have been entertained by me as to the right to pay for temporary clerical service from our Contingent fund, when indispensably requisite, I certainly considered them to be settled by the above correspondence, and accordingly gave my warrant to the payment of Mr. Parry's bill. The circumstances which rendered his services necessary were as follows.

According to the arrangement of duties formerly adopted in the Mint, the receipt & payment of deposites were devolved upon one clerk. This duty was not onerous at the time it was assigned, the transactions being comparatively few. In 1848, for example, the deposites were 1559, the payments 1170. But with the California influx of bullion came an enormous increase in our deposites & payments. In the past year our deposites were 11,014, our payments 9801. Some assistance to the clerk alluded to became indispensable. The President had, however, declined to allow a permanent increase in the number of our clerks. We had no other resource than to secure some temporary service, and accordingly the duty of disbursing the payments of the Mint was committed to Mr. Parry. He certainly seems to me to have been entitled to some compensation for the labor & responsibility thus incurred for the Mint. I sincerely hope, therefore, that considering the circumstances, and the apparent sanction to the principle of temporary employment given in the letter from the Department of the 20th of April last, that this item will finally be allowed.

It is proper to add, as a proof of the necessity of devolving the payment of deposites upon some other clerk than the one receiving them, that the President having subsequently consented to the employment of an additional clerk, the duties have been permanently divided. My own office, on the first floor of the Mint, was vacated by me, and converted into a paying room for the Treasurer, in charge of the new clerk.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Elisha Whittlesey, Esq.
Comptroller &c.
Washington.

Mint of the United States
18 Mar. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the results of some further experiments which I have caused to be made by the parting process of Mr. McCulloh, with a view to determine whether any loss is incurred thereby.

1. The weight & quality of the gold used in the first experiment were as follows:

Deposite No. 1228 weighed 1180.71 ozs, the quality being 885 thous.
" 1217 " 705.81 " " 886½

The total delivered was 1886.52 ozs, containing of pure gold, according to the Assayers Report - - - - - ozs. 1670.629

The gold was subjected to the various processes of granulation with zinc, parting by sulphuric & nitric acids, & toughening in the test furnace. The weight & quality of gold returned were as follows:

Toughened gold weighing 1799.66 ozs, the quality 911 thous.
" " 19.09 " 903 "

The total returned was 1818.75 ozs, which contained, of pure gold - - - - - - - ozs. 1656.728

The loss of pure gold in the experiment was, therefore, - - - - - - - - ozs: 13.901

2. In the next experiment the gold only went through the first step of the process. It was granulated with zinc, & these granulations remelted into bars and assayed There was thus a double melting with zinc, so that the experi-

ment was a trying one. The gold delivered was as follows:

Deposite No. 496; weight 316.83 ozs: fineness 886: Pure gold ozs. 280.711

The bars returned were of the following weight & quality:

1082.49 ozs	@ 211½	thousandths,	contained fine gold	ozs. 228.947
210.91 "	83	"	" "	17.506
18.52 "	692½	"	" "	12.825

The total fine gold returned was therefore ozs. 259.278

Exhibiting a loss, in fine gold, of —— ozs. 21.433

3. In this third experiment the object was to determine whether a loss would be sustained if the metal were melted in a pot instead of in the reverberatory test furnace. The metal was, therefore, carried through the operations of granulating & parting, & then melted in a black lead pot, with nitre & borax. The gold delivered was as follows:

Deposite No. 495, wt. ozs. 159.82, fineness 894 ths. Pure gold ozs. 142.879

The weights of metal returned was as follows:

144.56 ounces, fineness 977 ths wt of pure gold ozs. 141.235

Loss, in fine gold oz: 1.644

The results of these experiments lead to a strong suspicion, if not a conviction, that the process pursued gives rise to a very unusual loss in the precious metal. Dismissing any consideration of the second experiment, in which an apparent loss of nearly 8 per cent is exhibited, the first & third experiments appear to confirm the fact of a loss of a little over 8/10ths of one per cent, in gold, due to the process. The extreme limit of allowance for wastage to the Melter & Refiner is 2/10ths of one per cent, although in practice this allowance is never approached. A loss of $^{8}/_{1000}$ths, or any approximation to it, could of course, in large operations never be sustained.

There appear to have been wasted, in the above operations, 36.978 ounces of pure gold, worth $767. I will not pretend to say how much of this may find its way into Sweep, & be ultimately recovered, or how much may have been volatilized with the zinc and ~~or~~ entirely lost; but I certainly could not feel justified in trying any further experiments by the process unless re-instructed to do so by the Department, in which case I should wish to know whether the loss, if any, is to be sustained by the Melter & Refiner, or become a Special charge on our Contingent Fund.

A pamplet lately issued by Mr. McCulloh, & which I saw yesterday for the first time, suggests to me the necessity for an explanation on a matter of which he has made complaint. I refer to my neglect to comply with so much of your instructions of the 11th of Jany as requires the experiment on Mr. McCulloh's process to be tried in his presence. I present, as my excuse, that supposing Mr. Booth to be entirely in Mr. McCulloh's confidence, and knowing him to be also legally & pecuniarily interested in a favorable result for the process, a personal presence of Mr. McCulloh seemed useless. The instruction from the Department had, I supposed, been issued in ignorance of that fact. I assure you that I intended no disrespect to the Department or to Mr. McCulloh in the course taken. It was very far from my thoughts that the request for a trial in that gentlemans presence had been suggested by his suspicions of being unfairly dealt with either by Mr. Booth or myself. His insinuations of a personal enmity on my part are entirely without foundation, and I greatly regret that they have been made. My official interest ~~was~~ would certai bias me in favor of any system which could have relieved us from the difficulties into which we had been thrown in our refining departments; and as for Mr. Booth he had, in addition, a direct personal intere to demonstrate the superiority of Mr. McCulloh's process. I will not deny that I have had doubts of the process; but I should ~~have~~ gladly have had them removed. One of them has been removed, tha namely as to the danger of rendering the gold too brittle for coinage. The other, founded on the know tendency of zinc to volatilize & carry off the metal with which it is melted, has been confirmed by the experiments now reported. That these experiments were faithfully & fairly tried I have no doubt. They were performed, as far as possible under my own eye, and the workmen engaged ~~were~~ are accurate & experienced, & were specially impressed with the importance of every care. It may be proper to mention their names. They were John Thompson, granulator, John I. Morell, Separator, & Archibald Porter, Melter.

very respectfully,
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury

United States Mint,
Philadelphia, March 20th. 1851.

Sir,

I had the honor of receiving your reply of the 25th. January to mine of the 22d. of the same month.

You say—"it does not appear from the information received, that my labors have been increased, in consequence of the alteration referred to, in the mode of keeping certain abstracts relating to deposites at the Mint for coinage, the Department is, therefore, unable to understand the equity of my claim for additional compensation founded on the changes referred to."

Since receiving the above reply, I have wished for an opportunity of explaining to you, the grounds, upon which my claims for compensation are founded, feeling assured that if I were favored with a personal interview, I could, without difficulty, satisfy your mind on this point.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of conversing with Mr. McKean, in regard to this matter, and have fully explained it to him. I will endeavor to repeat, in writing, the substance of that explanation.

The calculations, which I make of the gold deposites, are founded upon an entirely new system devised by myself and known only to myself. The advantages of this system are:

1. To secure perfect accuracy in the results, and great rapidity

in attaining them.

2. So to suit the operation and results, that the paper, upon which they are entered, may be copied by the press and substituted for the Abstract required for the Department and which formerly demanded much labor and time.

3. The means are furnished by this system for testing the accuracy of the entire quarter's work in a few days, thus saving to the Auditing Department a vast amount of labor in auditing these accounts.

In reference to the perfect accuracy of the Calculations, the high character for correctness in value, which the assay-memoranda universally sustain, is ample proof; and in regard to the rapidity, with which the calculations are made, by my system, I may be excused for stating that, in two weeks, I calculated and proved the value of 1000 deposites of gold amounting to more than three millions of dollars, besides performing other work required at my hands, during the same period. I do not ask, however, to be compensated for *this* advantage, as I consider myself bound to exert my best ability to discharge, with fidelity and promptness, *the duties connected with my department*.

The matter, for which I respectfully ask to be compensated is very special, and is entirely *distinct from the duties connected with my department*. It is true that, in itself considered, it does not add to my labors, but, in its consequences, it adds materially to my labors, as I explained to Mr. McKean. The preparation of the Abstract required for the Department formerly demanded much labor and time, and devolved upon another Clerk. Before I discovered my method to the Director's Clerk, he had prepared a schedule of the duties to be apportioned to the Clerks, (under a new arrangement made necessary by the increase of business at the Mint,) in which the duty of preparing the quarterly Abstract was not assigned to any of the Clerks, (in consequence of their hands being full without it.) but it was stated that some competent person might be found out of the Mint, who would prepare it for a moderate compensation.

Now the use of my system dispenses entirely with this labor and expense, - whereas, without its use, both the labor and expense of *transcribing* the results of all the calculations, as was formerly the practice, must be incurred.

I may be excused for stating also, that the amount of work accomplished by me, by the use of my method of calculations, could not be performed, in as short a period, by the labors any *one* Clerk, by any other known method; this I am perfectly willing to have tested.

I trust, that I have succeeded in explaining the grounds, upon which rests the equity of my claim for compensation, so long as the Mint continues to be pecuniarily benefitted by the use of my method, which cannot be dispensed with, without returning to the former method of *transcribing* the results of the original calculations at a much greater expense, than would serve to satisfy me for the use of my plan.

I shall be glad to give any other explanation that may be required, and asking your kind consideration of what has been submitted,

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
Geo. W. Edelman,
Treasurer's Office Clerk.

To/
Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington

Mint of the United States
21 March 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit my report of the deposites & coinage at the Mint & its Branches during the past month.

The system of prompt payment which we were able to resume on the 11th ult., has not since been interrupted. I have the satisfaction to state that we are in a condition to pay every gold deposite in the Mint; and that the unassayed deposites, this morning, were but 21, being the receipts of yesterday. We are therefore paying the deposites to the 19th inclusive.

With the experience of a few weeks longer I shall be able to report what is the amount of bullion fund indispensable to conduct our operations, and, consequently, what portion may, if required, be held subject to the drafts of the Department.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasury.

Mint of the United States
22 Mar. 1851.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your letter of yesterday acknowledging mine of the 17th relative to the disallowed item of $400 in the account of the late Treasurer of the Mint. In compliance with your request I now return the voucher & warrant for the payment.

You notice the fact that the Secretarys letter of the 20th April 1850 but adopted the language of mine of the 14th authorizing the employment, therefore, but "for a limited time, say for one month", and inasmuch as the voucher covered a longer period of employment you ask an explanation of the reasons therefor.

I would state, in reply, that although the period of one month was indicated by me it was done hypothetically only. The general design of my application was to secure authority for temporary employment when the necessities of the Mint indispensably required it. That the service rendered was indispensable I endeavored to show in my last letter; but there can be no necessity of proving that fact when, by consent of the Department, a new clerk has been introduced into the Mint, whose duties are, in the main, those for which the disallowed bill was rendered. Even supposing that, by a strict interpretation, the authority from the Department was not ~~a~~ complete for the employment referred to, I suggest, with great deference, that, considering the circumstances, a posterior authority might properly be given.

In regard to the time during which the services were rendered, although ~~they~~ it extends very much beyond a single month, yet the charge is so moderate as to make that a matter of less consideration. According to the rate of compensation of clerks of a high grade the charge would be reasonable for but three months service.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson
Director.

Elisha Whittlesey, Esq.
Comptroller &c.
Washington.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 25 Mar. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, (enclosed in the paper marked No. 1) specimens of a three-cent piece, made conformably to the design of Mr. Longacre, the present Engraver of the Mint.

In the paper marked No. 2 will be found Specimens of the same coin, struck from dies made by Mr. Gobrecht, the predecessor of Mr. Longacre. AW110?

In compliance with the course heretofore adopted, on similar occasions, I submit these coins, through the Department, for the examination of the President, with the request that I may be informed if either, and if so which, of them meets his approval. Without presuming to indicate my own judgment in the matter, I respectfully suggest that if no marked inferiority is found in the design of Mr. Longacre, his present official position makes it manifestly desirable that it should be accepted.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasury

Mint of the United States,
27 Mar. 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letters of yesterday, giving instructions relative to the issue of the three-cent piece, and stating the Presidents approval of the dies for that coin presented by Mr. Longacre.

In my letter of the 7th. I endeavored to express the importance of an authority to sell the new coin for American gold; in your letter of instructions no such authority is given, although no objection to the plan is suggested. As it is possible, therefore, that the permission was overlooked I take the liberty of renewing your attention to the importance of an instruction on that point. If we are confined to exchanges for Silver alone you will see the great difficulty of introducing any large amount of the new coin into currency. The present premium on American Silver Coin or bullion is found effectually to check receipts at the Mint for 5c. & 10 cent pieces, although these bear a high price in the market & are much in demand. Is there any reason to suppose that the 3 cent piece, a debased coin, &c will prove a greater attraction to depositors? I think not. I hope, therefore, that you will extend our authority so as to permit exchanges for American Gold coin, as well as Silver. How profitable such an exchange will be to us I have, in my previous letter, endeavored to show.

I would also suggest that the instructions be relaxed or modified, which require that foreign silver coin of *the fullest weight* should be selected or preferred; for as we should receive all coins at their value per *ounce* it matters nothing ~~if~~ whether they are of full weight or well nigh worn out. The general object you have in view, which is the purchase of that silver which for the premium paid will yield the largest return in coin, will of course be borne in mind.—

very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq
Actg Secy of Treasy

Mint of the United States
27 Mar. 1851.

Sir,

Since my letter of the 18th communicating the results of certain experiments on Mr. McCulloh's process, a trial has been made by Mr. Booth, on a small amount of gold, which gives a much more satisfactory return. By this experiment there were operated on 55.450 ounces of fine gold, of which there were returned after granulating & parting 55.295; showing a loss of .0028 per cent. By the experiments before reported to you the loss appeared to be .118

Although I did not witness this last experiment, I presume it was accurately conducted, and inasmuch as the return, although showing a loss beyond the legal limit, throws some discredit on the previous experiments, I shall order an accurate trial to be made by the *ordinary* process, in order to ascertain whether these losses arise from the roughness of the operations and are therefore *apparent* rather than real. It is possible that ~~there~~ may be some inherent difficulty in recovering all the gold, in single experiments, so that Mr. McC's process bears the weight of a suspicion not justly due to it.

very respectfully,
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm L. Hodge, Esq.
Actg Secy of Treasy

R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint

185

Mint of the United States
Philada. 31 March, 1851.

Sir,

At the request of the Treasurer of the Mint, I have the honor to represent to you the necessity of an increase in the clerical force of his office, and to request that the Presidents consent thereto may be given. I present, very respectfully, some of the grounds which indicate the propriety of this request.

Up to the close of the year 1847 the Treasurer was allowed, in his office, three clerks. A vacancy having occurred, at that time, the number was reduced to two, who were found competent to the labor then required. At the close of 1848 the deposites from California began to reach the Mint, and since that time the general business of the Mint has been enormously increased. Early in 18[illegible]9 it was found necessary to return to the original number (three) of clerks allowed to the Treasurer. These proving insufficient, another clerk was added, by the President's consent, in June of the same year.

The business in the Treasurer's office having still continued to accumulate, it became necessary, in November last, to employ still another clerk, but as it was thought possible that the services of this clerk would not be permanently necessary, he was only temporarily employed, and was paid from the Contingent Fund. There has not since been an occasion when it would have been possible to

Sm. R. M. Patterson

dispense with these services, and it has become manifest that he should be engaged upon a more permanent footing, as there seems no probability of a diminution in our business for some time to come.

While the requirements of the public service will justify the permanent engagement of the new clerk, there is a special reason ~~justifying~~ for so doing in consequence of the difficulty which is made, by the accounting officers of the Treasury, in passing the bills rendered for clerical services other than those given by the clerks regularly appointed. Such bills have already been suspended, as unauthorised, and I am not sure whether the explanations which I have given relative to their necessity have sufficed to satisfy the accounting officers. Under the circumstances I am compelled to request the Presidents consent to the appointment, by our Treasurer of a new clerk.

It is not easy to fix upon any precise measure of the degree in which the business in the Treasurer's office has been increased in the few past years. The number of deposites & warrants for payment afford the best means of comparison. These, in 1847, 1848, 1849 & 1850 were as follows

1847 -	deposites -	1828	; warrants -	1302	Total	3,130
1848	do	1559	; do	1100		2,659
1849	do	3841	; do	2989		6,830
1850	do	11,014	; do	9801		20,815
1851 (1st. quarter)		3,957	; do	3504	(rate per year)	29,844

It seems, therefore, that since 1847, the number of deposites & warrants entered in the Treasurer's office, has increased to six times the number in 1850, and probably will be ten times the number during the present year. Yet during that time the number of clerks has been increased ~~from~~ but by one, regularly appointed, and another temporarily employed. The reasonableness of permitting us to have the latter clerk now regularly appointed will I hope be apparent.

Should the President consent to the proposed appointment, the Treasurer will make the nomination at once. A resolution of the last Congress has devolved upon him the selection of the clerks for the future employed in his office.

I embrace this occasion to request the favorable consideration of the department relative to the approval of the bills which ~~have~~ been or may be rendered for clerical service which we have engaged under circumstances of absolute necessity. The suspension of these bills, under the circumstances, would operate with great hardship.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec'y of the Treas'y

Approved, April 9. 1851
Millard Fillmore

Mint of the United States
Philada. 5 April 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, and present such replies as your enquiries seem to demand.

The Salary proposed for the new clerk is the same as that now allowed to the other clerks in the Mint, viz $1200 per annum. It will have to be paid from our Contingent Fund.

The suspended items alluded to in my letter, as charges for clerical services were 1st. the payment of $400 which has now been allowed, & 2d. an item of $100 for a months services in December last, on which an explanation was asked by the Auditor a few days since. A payment has since been made of $300 which will appear in the account for the past quarter, & which I referred to as a bill to be rendered. The circumstances under which these ~~[illegible]~~ services were rendered, & the grounds for the charges, will appear from the facts set out in my letter of the 31st. in which I have requested that a permanent clerk be substituted for the clerk thus temporarily employed. If a permanent clerk is necessary for the same duties, the reasonableness of the bills rendered for the performance of these duties by the clerk thus temporarily engaged is manifest. The engagement of such temporary services has been made by us from the absolute necessities of the case, and it was not supposed that a preliminary authorisation from the Department was indispensable. Of course no future engagements of this kind will be made without a previous authority. We have, however, still engaged the temporary clerk whose bills have above been referred to, and I hope that his compensation will be allowed ~~as long as~~ until a permanent clerk is substituted.

It is proper to refer, in this connection, to the fact that a great increase of clerical business will result from the sale & distribution of the three-cent coins. The copper business is found to give considerable trouble, & the three cent business bids fair to be even more complicated & onerous than that. In the present scarcity of silver change, the accommodating terms on which we (properly) propose to furnish the coins will induce a very great distribution & coinage of them. In these circumstances, & considering the impossibility of detailing any of the Mint Clerks to attend to the duties relating to this coin, even with the new clerk for whom I have applied, I suggest as the most economical & convenient plan that the Clerk to the Assistant Treasury attend to this business, and that he be allowed a small compensation therefor, say $600 per annum, to be paid from the profits of the coinage. In making this suggestion I am influenced not only by the fact that he is the only clerk within the Mint who can possibly undertake the work, but also by the consideration that the vault of which he has charge is the only one available for the custody of these coins. The vaults in the office of the Treas. of the Mint are very small & are now filled to such an extent that but a trifling additional supply could be received. I may add that the compensation proposed to be paid should be considered as due for work out of the usual office hours, since the Clerk to be employed will of course find it necessary to perform a great amount of such extra labor, if this three cent business is confided to him.

In reply to your inquiry as to the period of commencing the three-cent coinage & the amount proposed to be issued, I state that the material for the coinage is now in the Coiners hands. The coinage will commence early next week. It is difficult to state, with certainty, what amount may be conveniently coined of these pieces, since experiments are now making as to the most practicable & ~~convenient~~ expeditious processes to be pursued in relation to their coinage. There is every reason to conclude, however, that at least one press can be constantly kept occupied on these pieces, coining 45,000 pieces a day, or 1,170,000 per month ($35,100). So far as the coinage will be limited at the present time, it will be by the insufficient number of coining presses at our disposal,

we have now two presses of the small size adapted f
this coinage. One of them will be required for gold
dollars & dimes & half-dimes, and we can, therefore,
only rely with certainty on a single press for this
coinage. A new press, however, is now in progre
which when complete, will be available for a grea
increase in the number of these pieces, if the public
demands require it.

You mention, for our government, that a
withdrawal from the bullion fund, during the
next month, of the two millions last added, will
be made. I enclose, herewith, a newspaper slip
~~from our~~ containing an official statement from
our Treasurer, from which it will be seen that
we commenced the ~~[illegible]~~ month with a very satisfactory balance of coin on hand. It was in contemplation, during the present month, to avail
ourselves of this balance in order that we might
justify a reduced coinage in value, by increasing, very greatly, the ~~a~~ number of gold dollars,
for which there is a great demand. Heretofore we
have not been able to meet the public wants, in
this respect, in consequence of our great indebtedness, and the necessity of availing ourselves of the
coinage of the larger pieces to recover our position.
If the Department requires the last deposite of
Two million we can of course supply it, but at

some sacrifice in the power to meet the demand for small gold coinage, to which I have referred

Very respectfully

your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson,

Director.

Hon. Wm. L. Hodge,

Actg Secy of the Treasy

P.S. It is proper to add that the dies & other materia necessary to enable the New Orleans Mint to coin the three-cent pieces, are now being prepared here. I have not yet given definite instructions upon the subject, since it was important to await the experience derived from our own first trials of the coinage. The method of keeping the accounts relative to the matter so as best to harmonize with our general system, is not yet fully matured, so that I have not felt justified in giving the instructions required by you. They will be given with the least possible delay.

U. S. Mint—Coinage in March, 1851.

GOLD COINAGE.	
284,197 Double Eagles, value, - - - -	$5,683,940 00
48,663 Half Eagles, value, - - - -	243,315 00
38,104 Quarter Eagles, value, - - -	95,260 00
263,220 Gold Dollars, value, - - - -	263,220 00
634,184 pieces.	$6,285,735 00
SILVER COINAGE.	
128,000 Half Dimes, - - - - - -	$6,400 00
COPPER COINAGE.	
653,799 Cents, - - - - - - - -	$6,537 99
1,315,983 pieces.	$6,298,672 99

Total Gold Bullion deposited for coinage from 1st to 31st of March, 1851, inclusive:—

From California, - - - - - - -	$2,634,000 00
" other sources, - - - - - - -	37,000 00
	$2,671,000 00
Silver Bullion deposited in same time, - -	$8,400 00

All deposites made at the Mint since March 11th, have been paid promptly on the ascertainment of their value, and a large surplus of coin has been accumulated in the Treasury; the amount now on hand, available for payments, is over $2,000,000. Deducting $500,000 for old deposites, payable but undrawn, and $200,000 for deposites not ascertained, and we have a surplus beyond all demands of $1,300,000.

Preparations are making for a large issue of three cent pieces from the Mint at an early day. By authority from the Treasury Department, a great part of the Silver Bullion Fund will be converted into these pieces; and after receiving a sufficient supply for the various Government offices, the balance will be exchanged for deposits of foreign silver coins or bullion, and also *for American gold or silver coins.* A fund is likewise provided for procuring future supplies of silver bullion for this coinage, so that all the public demands may be promptly satisfied. To prevent undue accumulations of these coins in single hands, a discretion is allowed to decline selling more than $150 worth at a time to one applicant. The least amount to be sold is $30 worth. Authority is also given to deliver the coins in distant cities at the cost of the Mint for transportation, as is now the case in distributing the copper coinage. Notice will hereafter be given of the time at which applications for the new coin will be received.

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT TREASURER U. S.
Philadelphia, March 31.

1851—Feb. 28—Balance, - - - - - -		$531,561 49
March 31—Receipts, Customs, -	$388,694 77	
" " Post Offices, -	16,981 95	
" " Pensions and Miscellaneous, -	57,622 10	
		463,348 82
		$994,910 31
" Payments, Treas'y drafts,	$589,815 45	
" " P. O. warrants,	22,242 19	
" " Pensions, Int. on Loans, &c.,	26,614 44	
		638,672 08
Balance, - - - - - - -		$356,233 23

E. C. DALE, Assistant Treasurer.

Mint of the United States
Philada. 3 Apr. 1851.

Sir,

In the letter of the 26th ult. giving the instructions of the Department in relation to the 3 cent piece, authority was given to apply a portion of the profits arising from the coinage in defraying the expense of distributing the pieces to distant cities, as is now done in relation to the copper coin. In distributing copper coin we pack the pieces in kegs holding $100 worth, and send them by ordinary transportation routes, but this plan would not be so available in the case of the three cent pieces, which, inasmuch as the parcels will be of great value in a small bulk, could not safely be risked in the common freighting conveyances, if indeed they would be accepted for carriage at all, without a special compensation. A proposal has been made to us by Adams & Co to take charge of distributing these coins which appears to be very reasonable, and which I present for your consideration: Their letter and schedule of rates are copied & presented herewith. It will be seen that they propose to carry the coins at rates varying from ½ to 4 per cent, to the cities mentioned by them. In regard to places omitted in their schedules they will undertake charge of the pieces at the most reasonable rates possible.

I shall be pleased to learn whether you approve of an arrangement with Adams & Co on the terms proposed.

In your letter of the 26th ult. reference was made to the necessity of reserving part of the 3 cent coinage "for the use of the principal post offices, navy yards &c. where great inconvenience is felt for the want of small change". It would be desirable if we could be informed what amount we should retain of the first coinage for the uses above mentioned, and also how it is proposed to disburse the coins to the offices referred to. In the above letter you suggest that we should decline furnishing, to individuals depositing silver, more than one-half in 3 cent pieces, reserving the other half for post-offices &c. Inasmuch as we shall receive but few deposites of the kind, the part reserved as above would be but of small amount. It would, perhaps, be more satisfactory ~~if the~~ to indicate the proportion of the whole amount coined which we shall reserve for the public offices. We shall then, after retaining that amount, disburse the balance to individuals.

very respectfully,
your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy

Phil^a^ April 7th 1851

Edward C. Dale Esq.
Treasurer U.S. Mint Phil^a^

Dear Sir

We propose to transport and insure the three cent coin in accordance with the annexed Schedules – The percentage named covers carriage and insurance.

Allow us to suggest that the rate of insurance to many of the points named is from 1% to 1½ %; and also that the smallness of the sums in which it is proposed to furnish the coin, will greatly enhance the expense to us, after it leaves our own routes.

Trusting that these Schedules, which we have endeavored to make out at the lowest safe rate, will prove satisfactory

We are
Your obt. Servts.
(Signed) Adams & Co

Class A. @ ½ %

Baltimore	Md.
Washington	D.C.
Wilmington	Del.
Trenton	N.J.
Newark	"
New York	N.Y.
Lancaster	Penn^a
Harrisburg	"

Class B. @ 1%

Norfolk	Va.
Richmond	"
Petersburg	"
Cumberland	Md.
Albany	N.Y.
Troy	"
Springfield	Mass.
Worcester	"
Boston	"
Lowell	"
Fall River	"
New Bedford	"
Taunton	"
Pittsfield	"
Hartford	Conn.
New Haven	"
Norwich	"
Nashua	N.H.
Providence	R.I.
Newport	"

Claſs C. @ 1½ %

Weldon	N. C.
Pittsburg	Penna
Buffalo	N. Y.
Syracuse	"
Utica	"
Concord	N. H.
Montpelier	Vt.
Bangor	Me.

Claſs D. @ 2½ %

Charleston	S. C.
Savannah	Ga.
New Orleans	La.
Mobile	Ala.
Louisville	Ky.
Lexington	"
Cincinnati	Ohio
Cleveland	"
Columbus	"
Sandusky	"
Wilmington	N. C.
Erie	Penna

Claſs E. @ 3 %

Montgomery	Ala.
Natchez	Miſs
Vicksburg	"
Macon	Ga.
Nashville	Tenn.
Memphis	"
Helena	Ark.
Napoleon	"
St. Louis	Mo.
Chicago	Ill.
Peoria	"
Indianapolis	Ind.
Detroit	Mich.
Columbia	S. C.
Keokuck	Iowa

Claſs F. @ 4 %

Galena	Ill.
Springfield	"
Dubuque	Iowa
Little Rock	Ark.

Mint of the United States,
Treasurer's Office,
12th April 1851.

Sir,

In compliance with the authority of the Department, communicated in a letter of the 10th inst, I have the honor to nominate Robert D. Dunning as a Clerk for the Treasurer of the Mint, at an annual compensation of Twelve hundred dollars.

Mr. Dunning is a gentleman of indisputable character & qualifications for the proposed office. He has been known to me personally for many years. I had an opportunity of noticing his abilities when he was engaged in the office of the late Robert Morris, while Sheriff of the County of Philadelphia. Mr. Dunning has also been temporarily engaged in the Mint for some months past, and has performed the duties required of him to great satisfaction.

I have the honor to be,
very respectfully
your obedient Servant,
E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy

Mint of the United States
16 April 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a statement of the operations of the Mint & Branches for the past month.

I have the honor also to acknowledge your communications of the 10th & 11th inst.

The weekly report relative to this Mint, which is requested in your letter of the 10th, will be prepared according to your desire.

The coinage of the three cent pieces is progressing rapidly, and we expect, at an early day, to have such an amount prepared as will authorise us to commence a distribution. Your late instructions leave me in some doubt whether we are to distribute these coins to individuals in distant cities, or whether the only distribution authorised is that to be made to the public offices, on instructions or drafts from the Department. The latter course would be much the most convenient to ourselves, altho' it was not that which your original letter of instructions had led me to suppose was contemplated. The many questions to which we are daily subjected make it desirable that we should be definitely informed upon this point, and also as to whether the public officers, in the cities to which the coins are transferred, are to be authorised to exchange them for other money, or simply to put them into currency in ~~their~~ the course of their ordinary payments.

Very respectfully your ob't serv't

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.
Act. Sec'y Treas'y}

Mint of the United States,
18 April 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to represent to you that the Clerk in whose charge are placed the calculations of Mint deposites has become seriously sick, with a complaint in his arm, and has been ordered by his Physicians to abstain entirely from his usual labors. Under these circumstances it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to meet the demands of our depositors and to prepare the accounts for the department, without authority to secure some temporary assistance in the clerical force. The force engaged, regularly, in the Mint is, in my opinion too limited for the duties required, and when any part of it is thrown out of service, by inevitable circumstances, the additional labor thrown upon the remainder is quite too great for physical endurance.

With a view to the preparations of the quarterly accounts, and to meet the other requirements of the public service, I have to request that the Treasurer may be permitted to engage a clerk for a limited time, say until the accounts above mentioned can be despatched to the department. This request is made at his suggestion, and is founded upon the reasons which I have already mentioned.

Very respectfully, yr obdt Servt
R.M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm L. Hodge, Esq.
actg Secy of the Treasy

Mint of the United States,
21 April 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 18th conveying information of the views of the Department, relative to the distribution of the three cent coins.

It is with regret that I have again to trouble you upon this matter, but it is very desirable, in regulating our action upon this distribution, to be informed whether the coins sent to the public depositaries will be exchanged by them to individuals who may bring other money for that purpose. You will readily understand that, should they be authorised to make such exchanges, it would be a wise discretion in us to refuse distributing the coins, from here, to individuals who may have access to the depositaries in question. If, on the other hand, no such exchanges are authorised, and the coins placed in their hands shall only find their way to circulation through the payments of the Government it might be very proper for us to supply a customer, who, not having any transactions with the government requiring payments by such depositaries has no other recourse than a direct application to the Mint.

If the Department should see fit to instruct

the Government depositaries to exchange these Coins.
I am inclined to the opinion that, upon the whole, no other distribution by the Mint, to distant cities, than that to the depositaries would be necessary. The locations of the Assistant Treasurers & depositaries embraced in the Statement of the U. S. Balances, appear entirely convenient for securing the general distribution of the coin to the people, through the intermediation of those officers. It would be a great relief to us, in consequence of our deficient supply of clerks, to be freed from so much of the former instructions of the Department as requires us to send these coins to individuals in distant cities, and I now respectfully suggest that this be done, and, at the same time, that authority be given to the depositaries to whom we may send the coins to distribute them, in exchanges, to applicants in the cities where they are resident.

We shall have the coins put up in bags containing, respectively, $30, $60, & $150, and they might be sold by the depositaries only in such amounts or their multiples. There would, of course, be but little additional trouble devolved upon them by the transactions.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq
Actg Secy Treasy

Mint of the United States,
24 April 1851.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge your communication of the 19th inst, giving the consent of the Department to the employment of temporary clerical assistance by the Treasurer of the Mint, and in reply to your inquiry I beg to state that the compensation we propose to make will not exceed $2,00 per diem, and that the services will certainly be required until the Treasurers accounts for the last quarter are remitted to Washington, say three weeks. If a further employment is necessary after that period, the consent of the Department will be again asked.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.
actg Secy Treasy

Mint of the United States
26 April 1851.

Sir,

I send enclosed a Statement prepared conformably to the instructions of the Department, exhibiting the business of the Mint during the week ending this day.

very respectfully
your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq
actg Secy Treasy

Mint of the United States,
Philada. 2 May 1857.

Sir,

On the 26th ult. I had the honor to request the approval of the Department to a reduction of the tariff for separating mixed metals at the Mint. As it is desirable to have the new rate of charge, if adopted, to operate on the deposites commencing with the present month, I respectfully request that a reply may be given to my application at as early a day as possible. Our deposites are, as yet only calculated to the 26th ult. so that if authority for a change were received by Monday or Tuesday it would be made operative for the present month.

We have coined about $16000 in 3 cent pieces, and have announced that we shall commence an issue to the public on Thursday the 8th inst. It would be satisfactory to us, if, prior to that day, we could forward such supplies as are at our disposal, to the Government Offices whose wants we have been instructed by the Department to supply. The only obstacle to our doing so is found in the want of some definite authority justifying the Treasr. in parting with the funds, and indicating the kind of voucher which the Department would consider satisfactory for such disbursements as he may make. I referred to this subject in my letter of the 26th ult., but have to regret that no definite instructions are yet received.

Permit me to suggest that we be authorised to entrust to the care of Adams & Co such sums as we may wish to send to the Government offices in question, and take their receipts, or bills of lading as the Treasurers vouchers for so much parted with from his Coinage Account. From time to time we could furnish to the Department a statement of the amounts thus sent, transmitting the bills of lading as vouchers, and also, as far as possible, the receipts from the Government officers that the pieces were placed in their custody. A draft might then issue, on our Assistant Treasurer here, for the aggregate amount thus sent, & the proceeds would replace the coinage account into its original condition. By this plan the Treasurer will transmit just such amounts as the condition of the fund in his hands will permit; by any other plan which I can think of there would constantly be cases in which balances would be due from or to the Treasurer, growing out of our inability to supply the wants of the~~ir~~ depositories or their failure to remit funds. It would present the additional advantage of enabling us to secure payment from a single source, the Ass't Treas'y of the Mint, through the Treas'y drafts.

A case occurred this morning which presented some of the difficulties which the plan I have indicated is designed to remedy. Messrs. Chubb & Schenck caused $5000 to be sent to the Treasr. of the Mint as the payment of the $5000 which we are ordered to send to the Treasr. at Washington. Inasmuch as we should not be able from the small fund at our disposal to furnish so large a proportion to that officer, it follows that a considerable part of that sum must remain in the Treasr's hands, & it will be some time before it can be exchanged entirely for 3 cent pieces, unless we should depart from the proportions which we have been instructed to observe in distributing this coin. The question arose whether this money could be placed in the Mint in any way, and we thought not. It is certainly not a deposit, nor an increase of our bullion fund, nor (until we have the 3 cent pieces prepared) can it be exchanged. The Treasr. gave his receipt, however, for the amount, without entering it in his accounts, and will keep it in his possession as the fund for purchasing 3 cent pieces for the Treasr. at Washington, disbursing it from time to time as it is in our power.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq
Actg. Secy. of the Treasy.

Mint of the United States
2 May 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to send enclosed a bill from the 7th. Presbyterian Church in this city, for the expense of repairing damage to the roof of their building occasioned by the acid fumes from our Refinery.

The church immediately adjoins that part of the Mint in which the refinery is placed. Our Melter & Refiner states, in a note to me, that he had "no doubt that the complaint made of the influence of acid fumes arising from the refining department of the Mint is correct, as far as relates to buildings immediately contiguous, especially on the West Side, because the damp winds from the eastward are more apt to precipitate the acid vapors upon those roofs. These vapors arising from the decomposition of nitric acid are more apt than any others to promote the oxidation of metals."

I also enclose a letter from the party by whom the roof was repaired.

I may add that we were not requested to examine the roof prior to the commencement of the repairs.

I submit to the Department whether the bill is one which we are authorised to pay.

Very respectfully &c.
R. M. Patterson
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq
actg. Secy of Treasy

Mr James Dunlap

Dear Sir

We have painted & refixed the Penn Square Church roof which has been much injured by the acid arising with the efervesence created by solving metals in the Mint and falling on the roof it has entirely dissolved the tin on the tin plate with which the roof is covered thereby leaving the iron bare and exposed to the weather and action of the gases from the Mint

We have put the roof in the best order we could and painted it two coats with Stone paint I herewith send you the bill for the work done which you will please lay before the Board of Trustees and get me an order for the amount

and Oblige

Aug 30th 1850

Wm Wobell

Mint of the United States
Philad^{a} 5 May 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 3^{d} inst.

The instructions in regard to the 3 cent ~~cent~~ coin will be complied with.

On due consideration we have availed ourselves of the discretion allowed by the Department by declining to distribute this coin to distant places, through the ~~a~~ agency of the Mint, except only to the depositaries designated by the Department. Through their intermediation the coin will very readily pass into circulation, and also through the Banks & individuals who will be supplied, on direct application here. I am quite sure that we shall have difficulties enough in supplying the demand, in the beginning at least, without extending our invitation to purchase to every citizen of the Union who may choose to send us drafts.

In a late letter I intimated the desire that any large draft on our bullion fund might be, if possible, postponed. On further consideration, & in view of the very large surplus (over two million) which has remained in our vaults for some weeks past, I deem it perfectly safe for us to part with at least a million of dollars at once. The large balance presented against the Mint in the Government statements gives rise to insinuations against the Mint which I should prefer to avoid. If the funds are needed in this city they might be transferred simply to the Assistant Treasury here.

The consent of the Department to the new rate of parting charge not having been received, the old rate will be continued during the present month. In the mean time I shall take occasion to present to the Department some considerations tending to ascertain, in a definite manner, what is the *actual expense* to the Mint of this operation. An essential matter to be determined is whether the charge should pay the expenses of *wear & tear* as well as those of labor & materials. If the former, it may well be the case that the charge, as now fixed, is not too high.

very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.
Actg Secy of Treasy

From R. M. Patterson

Mint of the United States,
9 May 1851.

Sir,

On the 27th March last, I had the honor to address to you a communication on the subject of Mr. McCulloh's process for separating argentiferous gold bullion, wherein I stated that an experiment on a small scale had showed a smaller proportional loss in gold than had been indicated by the trials reported in my letter of the 18th of the same month. I also informed the Department that in consequence of the result thus exhibited I should direct a careful experiment to be made by the *ordinary* or silver granulation process, as a test to show what loss may be expected to appear from the very nature of such operations, independent of any particular material which might be employed. This experiment has been tried, & simultaneous with it one has also been tried by Mr. McCulloh's zinc granulation process. The results exhibited were as follows:

1. By Silver Granulation.

Operated on:

Deposite No. 4032	, weighing gross	oz. 310.37	: fineness	878½	. Pure gold	272.660
4033	"	299.83	"	883	"	264.750
4031	"	308.80	"	884½	"	273.134
4070	"	89.13	"	871		77.632
Total pure gold sent out —						888.176

(over) 888.176

The amount returned was

899.79 ounces @ 986½ equal to pure gold ozs. 887.643

Loss exhibited .533

2. By the Zinc Granulation

Operated on:

Depos. No. 4034 : wt 535.11 @ 883 ~~ths~~, equal to pure gold oz. 472.502
" 4031 " 302.88 " 884½ " " 267.897
" 4076 " 145.34 " 887 " " 128.917
" 4071 " 33.71 " 887 " " 29.901

Total pure gold sent out —— 899.217

The amount returned was

928.01 @ 963½. equal to pure gold 894.137

Loss exhibited 5.080

The loss by the silver granulation process, it thus appears, was in the ratio of $\frac{6}{10}$ths of an ounce per thousand. By the zinc granulation it was in the ratio of $5\frac{65}{100}$ths ounce per thousand, or more than nine times as great.

Mr. Booth has suggested to me that he has reason to believe that the zinc used in the experiment was not of the best quality and desires to repeat the experiment. If the unusual loss now reported were exhibited for the first time, I should have granted his request; but considering the result as but a confirmation of those previously reported, I have declined it, until I shall learn from the Department whether any further experiment is desired or approved.

very respectfully &c.

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.
actg. Secy of Treasy }

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, May 16, 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to present for your consideration the enclosed copy of a letter received from the Melter & Refiner of the Mint, in which he applies for authority to introduce a fire-proof floor into the refining department. The reasons which have been presented by him have great force, and the necessity for the improvement which he proposes has frequently weighed upon my own mind. At present, however, it is proper to mention that the expenses of the Mint are on a scale greatly increased beyond those anticipated in our annual estimates, and although I do not anticipate any deficiency in our means should the present parting charge be continued, the circumstance should be taken into consideration.

I shall be glad to receive the views of the Department on the propriety of the proposed expenditure.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Sec'y of the Treas'y

Copy

Office of Melter & Refiner,
U. S. Mint, 12 May 1851

Dear Sir,

The course of refining gold pursued at the Mint, or indeed any refining method, upon quantities of gold, requires a continuous operation of more than one day, during which the gold cannot be removed into a place of security against accident, especially accident by fire, which would mingle a large amount of fine gold in "powder", with the ruins of the building. It would be difficult to collect such gold again without danger of considerable loss. As the refining operations are most conveniently conducted in the second story of the building, the floor of which is not fire-proof, I have been long desirous of guarding against the risk of fire, by making a fire proof floor for the rooms of the refining department, and have obtained plans and estimates of the cost of constructing such a floor. The accompanying plan consists in throwing iron girders across the building, between which are arches of brick, and the whole is covered by a smooth stone floor. The only other feasible plan is to use similar girders and iron plates instead of the brick arches. The cost of the latter would be $4000, of the former about $3500.

It will be necessary to have a stone floor above the iron girders, in order to guard against the dropping of acid liquids through the floor, to the great injury of the moulds & other works contained in the melting-room under the refining department

You will observe that I consider it essential to have a fire-proof floor in the refining department to guard against possible loss by fire, and that such a fire-proof floor can at the same time be rendered acid proof for the security of apparatus and men in the lower department; and I would further beg you to make my wishes known to the department at Washington with the reasons for the same.

with high esteem,
dear Sir,
Your obdt Servt
(signed) Jas C Booth.

R. M. Patterson, Esq
Director U. S. Mint
Philada

Mint of the United States
27 May 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to report to you that I have received a statement from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans in which he announces that they have about $100,000 in Silver in their bullion fund which can be spared for 3 cent coinage, and also that they can issue the coin at the rate of $25,000 per month, provided the coinage of all other small silver & gold be discontinued. He states that ingots preparatory to the coinage have already been prepared.

Under these circumstances it is of importance that he should be instructed as to what points, and in what proportions, that part of the coinage which is to be reserved for the Government shall be distributed. I beg leave, therefore, to suggest that such instructions be given, either directly from the Department to the Superintendent, or by such an expression of views to this office as will enable me to act understandingly in the matter.

very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant,
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy

Mint of the United States,
May 28, 1851.

Sir

I have this day given to the Bank of North America of this city, on the order of Mess. Delano, Dunlevy & Co, Five thousand dollars, in gold dollar coins, in exchange for large coins, agreeably with your directions of the 21 st inst.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obt. servt.,

E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Hon. Thos. Corwin,
Secy. of Treasury.

Mint U.S. Treasurer's Office
Philadelphia, May 30, 1851

Sir:

I have this day furnished to Messrs. E. W. Clark & Co. for Chubb, Schenck & Co. for the use of the Treasury Department, $15,000 in Eagles, and $15,000 Half Eagles, in exchange for a corresponding amount in Double Eagles.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your obdt servt

E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Hon. Thos. Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

Mint of the United States;
Philadelphia, 18 June 1851.

Sir,

Mr. Robert D. Dunning has presented to my notice a claim for services as a clerk, and I have the honor to present to the Department a statement of the circumstances under which they were rendered, and to ask that authority be given to compensate them.

On the 10th of Dec. 1849 I asked, through the Department, the consent of the President to the appointment of an additional clerk to the Treasurer of the Mint. On the 14th this consent was obtained, and on the 15th I named a gentleman for the office whose appointment was approved and who subsequently entered upon his duties.

From circumstances to which it is not necessary to advert the clerk thus nominated could not immediately enter on those duties, but as the necessity for additional clerical service was very urgent, and as Mr. Robt. Dunning was a connection of the other, and warmly interested in his behalf, he, at my suggestion, took upon himself the performance of ~~his~~ such duties as were required of him, and continued to devote himself to the service of the Mint, and particularly to the preparation of the accounts for the department, until the nominated clerk entered on his office.

The services of Mr. Dunning extended over the period from the 24th Dec. 1849 to 12th Feb. 1850. From the latter date the new clerk entered on his duties and commenced to draw his salary.

Mr. Dunning claims that he should be compensated for the 48 days service rendered by him, at the rate of salary allowed to the clerk whose place he filled, namely $1200 per annum, say $158.

It is proper to mention that I did not engage that Mr. Dunning should be paid for these services, but it certainly appears to me that he is equitably entitled to the remuneration asked for; the grounds of his claim being, that the services were actually rendered, that they were necessary under the circumstances of the Mint; that a new clerk had been authorised to perform just such duties, who had he been in place would have been entitled to just such compensation. ~~D~~ Had the latter clerk taken his salary from the day of his appointment, instead of from the day of entering on his duties, he could have compensated to his substitute the labors performed in his stead; but not having done so, the only resource is to present the claim as it now stands. I beg leave to ask whether this claim shall be paid by us.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant
R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasy.

From,

R. M. Patterson

Director of the Mint

Philada

18 June 1857

Asking authority to pay
a claim against the Mint

Mr McKean - The
Director having been
authorized to appoint this
clerk (Denny) seems only
to have acted ad interim
& as it would ~~only~~ seem shd be com=
pensated -

So advise of dates
and there is no other
claimant to the pay / A

M 297
June 19/57
McLean

Mint of the United States,
Philada 21 June 1851.

Sir,

In a letter from the Department dated 19th of April last, consent was given to the Treasurer of the Mint to procure temporary clerical service. Subsequently, on the 24th, I stated the salary and time of employment which we proposed to ourselves, being until the Treasr's accounts were ready for transmission, at $2. per diem.

The Treasurers accounts for the quarter ending 31st March are now ready, after a delay which it was not possible to avoid. The temporary employment referred to will, therefore, be no longer authorised. It is nevertheless so necessary to us in facilitating the prompt conduct of business in the Treasurers office, that I most respectfully ask, on the representation of the Treasurer, that we may be authorised to engage these services still longer. Without indicating the particular time at which they shall cease, I propose that the Treasurer be authorised, in future, to expend from the Ordinary Fund, in payment of such temporary help as may be necessary, a fixed sum, not exceeding say $300 per annum. With this discretion the business of the Mint will progress with much more order & satisfaction. It is of course to be understood that if a greater expenditure be found necessary it will be specially asked for.

Very respectfully &c R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq
Actg Secy of Treasy

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 23 June 1851.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 21st inst., in which referring to my letter of 27th ult. you ask me to give certain instructions & obtain certain information relative to the coinage of 3 cent pieces at N. Orleans, I have to state that I this day write in accordance with the wishes of the Department. It is proper that I should mention that in a letter which I addressed to the Supt. on the 12th inst, I advised him, in case he should have received no instructions from the Department when ready to issue the coin, to distribute one-half thereof to the public at large, on demand, and the other half to Government officers in the region supplied with coin by the Mint, reserving bills of lading & receipts as vouchers, in conformity to our own practise. I presume he has acted according to my suggestion, in which case it is to be hoped he will obtain the sanction of the Department.

I have the honor to be,
very respectfully &c

R. M. Patterson
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.
Actg Secy of Treasy

P.S. The balance of the deposite to purchase 3 cents for Norfolk is $2,390, respecting which our Treasurer desires instructions.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, 30 June 1851.

Sir,

In reply to your communication of the 30th I have the honor to state that the parcels of threecents to which you refer (amounting to $1620) were forwarded by us to Henry Woods, depositary at Petersburg, and on reference to the original letter of instructions we find that this city, and not Pittsburg was the one designated by the department. Being now informed of the error the agent of Adams & Co, at ~~Pitts~~ Petersburg will be directed to return the coins, and they will be sent by us to Pittsburg.

very respectfully,
your obdt servt

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.
Actg Secy of Treasy
Washington.

Mint of the United States,
Philada 30 June 1857.

Sir,

The Superintendent at the Charlotte Branch Mint has addressed a letter to me requesting permission to suspend operations at that Mint during their sickly season. I have never, on any former occasion, given such a permission without authority from the Department, and I therefore refer the request to you. I may mention that these suspensions have been permitted for many years past, and I believe without any serious inconvenience to the dealers at that establishment.

Very respectfully,
Your faithful Servant

R. M. Patterson
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.
Actg Secy of Treasy.

Sir;

Washington
Jany 10th 1852.

In answer to your Enquiry as to the Expense of putting a Branch Mint into operation in California, we state, that one of the proprietors of the assay office in San Francisco, has authorized us to say, that the Government shall have immediate possession of that establishment on the passage of the Mint bill, at a price which any impartial man, appointed by the Government may say is its actual, fair value — That the Establishment is complete for assaying, and the buildings have been erected within the last eight months, and made fire proof, since May last, —
The proprietors have the privilege of purchasing a vacant lot adjoining their works which added to the present establishment, ~~which~~ will be sufficiently commodious for all the purposes of assaying, refining, and coining Gold and Silver, and that in their opinion the aggregate cost to the Government, including the assaying buildings and fixtures

the adjoining lot and buildings necessary to be erected thereon, will not exceed $200-000 — He further states that within sixty days after the passage of the law, the assaying portion of the Mint can be in full operation, and the refining and coining part, very soon thereafter — Under this arrangement, the sum of $3-000-000, can be assayed, refined and coined — per month —

We will state further that one of the largest Chemical Houses in the country has proposed to furnish, by contract, for five years, all the acids necessary to assaying, refining and coining, at a fraction over the prices now paid at Philadelphia and New-Orleans — If the new discoveries of Professor McCulloh, for refining Gold (now under process of Experiment) in the Philadelphia Mint should prove successful, with the use of it in the present assay works, at San Francisco, refining and coining could begin nearly as soon as assaying —

The Government by law, is authorized to purchase of Pro: McCulloh his patent right, at a specified price, immediately

upon

the Experiments proving successful, and which doubtless will occur in a few days. It may be proper to observe that Depositors have to repay the expense of assaying and refining, upon the Officers of the Government ascertaining the cost, and making a charge against them. [illegible]

We have hastily answered your enquiries from an anxious desire that you may reply at your earliest convenience to the call of the Committee of ways and means to enable them, if possible, to report the bill on Monday—

The Miners of California are subjected to exactions amounting to millions, annually, for the want of a mint, and it is a duty we owe them, and in the performance of the trust reposed in us, that we so earnestly urge immediate action, on the subject — We are not aware that there is a single member of either House of Congress, opposed to the establishment of a Branch Mint in California — Certainly, not in the Senate, as the bill now before the Committee on

Ways and Means passed that body, by a unanimous vote —

We have the honor to be

Respectfully

Yr. Obt. Sts.

Wm. M. Gwin

E. C. Marshall

Hon. Thos. Corwin

Sec. of the

Treasury

3

San Francisco March 31. 1851

Hon Thos. Corwin
Secy. of U.S Treasury

Dear Sir

The last mail brought intelligence of the defeat of the New York & California branch Mint bill & of the subsequent introduction by Mr Gwin of the Senate, of a bill "to establish a branch mint of the United States, in California" —

By the second section of that bill it is provided, "that temporary buildings shall be procured & erected immediately for carrying on the business of said branch mint" —

According to advices received by the same mail there was a strong probability that the bill would, before the close of the session become a law —

On the supposition that such has been the case, we take the liberty of thus early tendering to the Government, for the temporary purpose contemplated in the section referred to, for a fair consideration, our entire establishment —

For the purpose of carrying out our contract under the recent Assay law, we have purchased land in the most eligible part of our city — erected thereon fire proof buildings in which we have placed apparatus & machinery (in which is included a good steam engine,) that give facilities for the daily coinage of more than $30,000 in fifty dollar ingots —

[illegible] machinery have a capacity greater than those recently constructed at the U.S. Mint Phila. furnishing facilities for melting gold to the amount of millions per [illegible]

The buildings spoken of occupy a little over one third of the lot (40 ft front by 60 ft deep) on which they stand, so that in case it should be required, they could be enlarged at a trifling additional cost —

We cannot perhaps give a better idea of the facilities our establishment would temporarily afford for a U.S. branch Mint, than by the simple statement, that they are at this moment, such as with the proper dies only added, to admit of the daily coinage of fifty thousand dolls. in Eagles, half Eagles & double eagles — and could, at a comparatively small expense be speedily adapted to the daily coinage of any such larger amount, as might be required —

By the mail of the fifth of March inst. we forwarded our report for the month of February, & took the liberty of suggesting the expediency of authorising the issue of U.S. ingots of the denominations of 10 & 20 Dolls. We gave at length ~~our~~ reasons for the suggestion — Our experience for the past month, has strengthened the convictions we then expressed —

The amount of ingots to this time issued is about $530,000 and of this not more than $10,000 have been of denominations above fifty Dolls, thus conclusively showing that small denominations are more adapted to the wants of the people, than the larger ones — The former, in the absence of a sufficient supply of coin, are required for a currency — for the latter there is no demand, because bankers & merchants do & will for a long time to come, make their remittances in gold dust instead of ingots or coin — And as they do not deem the ingots a legal tender, but believe the U.S. Assay Office to be a source of [illegible], they countenance [illegible] farther than they are compelled to do, by the convenience & wants of the community — They even give a preference to private coining [illegible] ment —

The Assay Office has however already had the effect of compelling them to advance from 16 to 17 Dols per oz gold dust— and, to make amends, to increase the rates of exchange— It seems gradually to be making its way into public favour & we think the time not far distant when remittances will be made chiefly in U S ingots—

We respectfully call your attention to the money articles in the accompanying "Prices current list"—

Mr. Simonton, one of the Editors of the California Courier, whom business calls to Washington, bears this letter & is empowered by us, in case the Cala. branch mint bill has been passed, to negotiate & conclude a sale to the Govt. for its temporary use, of our establishment — Mr. Simonton has critically inspected it & can speak & act advisedly & intelligently in regard to it—

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servts
Moffat & Co

Our Returns for the Month of March we shall forward by the Steamer of the 15th April

Yrs &c
&c
Moffat & Co

4

San Francisco Apl 14th 1851

Hon Thos Corwin
Secy of U. S. Treasury
Dear Sir

In compliance with your instructions, we herewith send our report for the month of March— It will appear from it, and our previous report, that the business of the U. S. Aſsay office had from its commencement, steadily increased. From present appearances its amount for the current month will greatly exceed that of the last— The objects of the aſsay law, now seem to be in a fair way of accomplishment— The effect of its operation upon the gold-dust market, and upon the monetary affairs of this country has already been great— indeed, it has within the last fortnight produced almost an entire revolution in our financial transactions;- of which a brief history may not be uninteresting.

We have heretofore informed you, that the assay office encountered the opposition of bankers, ~~that~~ Their hostility arose from a belief that its successful operation, would conflict with their interests, first, by advancing the price of gold-dust,- Secondly, by compelling them to increase the rates of exchange, and thirdly, by destroying certain private mints, to which they were selling large quantities of gold dust at a profit,— In our last, we informed you, that the first two results had already happened. Since [illegible] the third has been accomplished,— those private mints, which encouraged, if not established, by bankers, had for some

been flooding the country with their coin—
All this coin was manufactured from the gold of the country without any process of refining; & although of full U. S. Standard weight, yet under Mint value, because the average fineness of Cal^a gold is much below Mint standard,—Careful assays of the coin had been made by the U S Aſsayer, and the fact demonstrated that it was, on the average, some 3 per cent below its purported value.—

A correspondence between the U S Aſsayer and one of our bankers showing the result was published, the effect was instantaneous and overwhelming; the private Mints were at once compelled to suspend operations, and their iſsues amounting, we have reason to believe, to a Million and a half, have since been purchased at a discount of from 5 to 10 per cent, and it is not at all likely that another private coin will ever be struck in California— In the mean time the iſsues of the assay office were popular with the merchants, and the people generally—They had the impress of authority—bore the U S States stamp & were considered, to all intents and purposes, a U S Coin,—and bankers began to find, that to discredit it, was beyond their power. They have therefore made a virtue of necessity, and from enemies, have become its friends, they not only now receive it and pay it out, as they do other coin of the U S [illegible] but they have become the largest depositors of dust at the assay office,— It will be seen from the report, that all the iſsues of the assay office have been of the denomination of $50,—such too has been the case to the present time, the [illegible] absence of a sufficient supply of legal currency, they are not shipped but go into circulation here & the chief complaint against the Office has been, that it

has not been authorized to make its issues of still less
denominations, The necessity for such authority is augmented
by the sudden withdrawal from circulation of so large an
Amt of private coin, — We are awaiting with much anxiety
such instructions as will enable us to supply this desideratum

Ingots of large denominations, will be in demand, only
when they shall be required for shipment, that they will
soon be so required, we have every reason to believe,

The advance in the price of gold dust — gradual
increase in the rate of exchange, convince us that the day
of profit on shipment of dust is nearly past, and that
re long, the miner ~~and~~ the producer, will obtain the
full value of his gold, whilst the merchant will have to
ly for his profit on his goods, and the banker on his
Exchange, and not upon remittances of gold-dust

Very Respectfully
Yr Obt Servts
Moffat & Co

P.S. Lest it might be inferred, that with the private coin
poken of, that of Moffat & Co is included, we deem it proper
o say, that we discontinued its issue, before commencing oper
ations under the Govt contract — that it still has, as it has
ver had, the confidence of the public, and continues to
irculate at par, quite as freely as coin of the U.S.

M & Co.